





## Sudan's economic ills could 'undermine independence'

**KHARTOUM (R)** — Sudanese leader General Abdul Rahman Swaredhah has warned that Sudan's political independence could be undermined by its ailing economy.

Addressing the inaugural session of a one-week conference discussing an economic rescue plan, Gen. Swaredhah said Saturday night that the country's foreign debt was threatening its political achievements.

"Our foreign debt has climbed to unimaginable levels and we are already a burden on others. This unsatisfactory state of affairs could negatively affect our ability to make our own political decisions," he said.

Sudan is crippled by foreign debts of about \$9 billion, on which interest charges amount to \$800 million annually.

It has also been hit by famine, an influx of thousands of refugees from neighbouring Ethiopia and Chad, and a rebellion in the south.

Finance and Planning Minister

Sid Ahmad Tayfour said the economic crisis was one of the main hazards inherited from the defunct regime of ousted President Jaafar Numeiri.

"Poor planning and the absence of clear economic strategies during the past seven years were the main causes of famines which led to the death of millions, in a country with a substantial human and natural potential," Mr. Tayfour said.

Conference chairman Professor Omer Mohammad Osman said the Numeiri government, ousted in last April's revolution, lost credibility after falling victim to the "octopus of the international lending institutions."

The conference is reviewing studies on the dimensions of the

economic crisis, agricultural and industrial production, infrastructure problems, social services and manpower resources.

Meanwhile the head of Sudan's army was quoted as saying Saturday Sudanese troops have withdrawn from the town of Rumbek in southern Sudan's Blue Nile region.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted army chief of staff Gen. Mohammed Tawfik Khaliq as saying government troops pulled out of the strategic town "to protect residents and state property."

The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said in a radio broadcast Saturday that the town was captured on Wednesday after a five-hour battle in which 87 government soldiers were killed.

The radio said the whole of the province was "a liberated area." Gen. Khaliq said his forces were redeployed "somewhere outside Rumbek."

## Papal envoy in Beirut on peace mission

**BEIRUT (AP)** — The Vatican's Foreign Minister, Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, arrived in Beirut Sunday seeking to help revive political efforts to end Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war.

Silvestrini flew from Cyprus in a Lebanese army helicopter amid artillery clashes between Falangist and opposition militias across Beirut's dividing Green Line and in the hills overlooking the capital.

Police said two people were killed and 12 others wounded during night-long exchanges on the two fronts.

Silvestrini, whose diplomatic mission marks a new Vatican move to help settle Lebanon's conflict, is scheduled to meet with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, and Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus, church officials said.

Silvestrini's helicopter landed at a military base in Jounieh, north of Beirut in the Falangist heartland. He was greeted by leaders of Lebanon's Maronite Catholic community and government officials.

Roman Catholic officials have voiced hopes that Silvestrini's mission will make a breakthrough in helping Lebanon's Falangists and the opposition to end the bloodshed.

"There is a will for peace, a strong desire to safeguard coexistence between Muslims and Christians and religious and cultural plurality," Papal Nuncio Luciano Angeloni told reporters Saturday in Beirut after a meeting with Mr. Gemayel.

"What is even more," he said, "there is a strong desire for solid relations between Lebanon and other countries, mainly Syria, based on cooperation and friendship."

The Vatican effort followed the collapse of a Syrian-sponsored peace plan signed on Dec. 28 by Lebanon's three main Falangist, Shi'ite Muslim and Druze militia leaders.

Silvestrini also hopes to patch up the strained relations between Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Assad, the main power broker in Lebanon.

Relations between the two soured when Mr. Gemayel rejected the Syrian-sponsored pact on grounds it made too many concessions to Lebanon's opposition majority.

Silvestrini told reporters in Rome he was offering the Holy See's contribution "to the forces of good will on all sides to avoid the rekindling of an antagonistic struggle and armed encounters."

Silvestrini's arrival marked the culmination of a series of efforts by a special papal envoy, Monsignor Luigi Giatti, who opened talks with religious and political leaders last week.

Mr. Gemayel's rejection of the pact buried hopes of peace, touched off a bloody power struggle within the Falangist camp and unified opposition demands for his removal from office.

## Foreigners learn to live with risks in Beirut

By John Fullerton  
Reuters

**BEIRUT** — "Keep a low profile. Never relax. Never confide in anyone. Don't develop regular habits and be very, very careful with the opposite sex," said a foreigner who has spent several years living — and surviving — in Lebanon.

Expatriates who have lived through years of civil war, unrelenting street battles, car bomb attacks, assassinations and dozens of kidnappings are happy to pass on survival skills.

The abduction in Beirut Sunday of a four-man French television crew has served to highlight the dangers, especially to foreign journalists who are exposed more than most.

Risk is ever-present, but fluctuates from day to day and place to place. Residents quickly develop a "sixth sense," for calculating danger is a topic as routinely discussed here as the British ruminate ruefully over their weather.

"There are two kind of targets

— deliberate and opportunity. If 'they' really want to get you, they will," said one embassy staffer who has lived in Beirut for two years.

"You can make it harder for them if you avoid taking the same route at the same time every day, avoid eating out at the same places or frequenting the same friends' homes," he said.

The journalists most exposed to attack or kidnapping are the handful employed by foreign media and whose work means getting close to violence — what reporters call "bang-bang."

Cameras and photographers have a special need to learn the instinct and knowledge to survive. They choose their drivers with care, know whether a shell or mortar bomb is "outgoing" or "incoming," can assess the calibre of weapons being used and with unerring accuracy can judge distances and directions of shooting.

But all too often, the danger is quite arbitrary. "I went to Beirut's 'Green Line' battlefield three weeks ago with two French cameramen," said one

photographer. "A militiaman told us to go with him into a church. I knew what was happening and held back — until it was clear I had no option."

"They took our cameras, slapped us in the face and pushed us up against the wall of the belfry. They stood behind us and emptied their machine-guns inches over our heads," he added.

Instinctively the photographer guessed his captors were from a Muslim militia. He produced the appropriate militia press card — and they were free to go, with their equipment.

One European journalist said he has been held at gunpoint or abducted — briefly — on five separate occasions in less than two years.

On one occasion he was intercepted as he was about to open the front door of his flat.

"I had a girlfriend who came from an important family. They put a gun to my head and asked me if I knew her. I said I did. They said I would not be seeing her again and I haven't."

Foreigners say they must as-

sume that they are watched and their telephones tapped.

"Living here is an attitude of mind. You have to be cautious, but not too fearful or you wouldn't be able to function," said one veteran correspondent.

Several diplomats, including British Ambassador John Gray, have well-armed bodyguards to protect them and their homes.

Coils of barbed wire, searchlights and anti-tank obstacles to prevent suicide squads ramming embassies with trucks packed with explosive have become many missions into small forts.

At two West European embassies, men in plainclothes equipped with walkie-talkies and carrying automatic shotguns and submachine-guns patrol balconies and gates.

Few foreigners seem anxious to leave, however. "There's a hot sun, a sea breeze off the Mediterranean. You can eat well and there's still some sort of nightlife. At face value it seems marvellous — but you always have to look over your shoulder," said a diplomat.

## Israel reportedly concerned over possible Syrian attack on Golan

**LONDON (Agencies)** — The danger of a Syrian attack on Israel to snatch back the Golan Heights is "very realistic," the Sunday Telegraph reported, quoting an unidentified "highly placed political source" in Israel.

The weekly said there is growing concern in Israel that Syria might be planning a limited strike to secure the Heights between the two countries, which Israel occupied in the six-day war of 1967 "and effectively annexed in 1981."

The report said: "Israeli analysts agree that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad may now have realised his goal of achieving 'military parity' with Israel and is anxious to seize on the Jordanian peace efforts to propel Syria into a position of leadership in the Arab World."

"They also point to the grave economic crisis facing Damascus largely as a result of the rearmament programme, which devours 50 per cent of the country's gross national product and they believe that Mr. Assad may ini-

tiate hostilities to deflect attention from Damascus's problems."

The weekly said that the analysts believe, however, that Mr. Assad is unlikely to launch all-out war as Israel "still possesses a substantial qualitative military and technological edge."

The Sunday Telegraph said that the analysts think Mr. Assad might launch a limited, lightning land grab to establish a "stepping stone" on the Golan, "and attempt to hold his ground until the international community imposes a cease-fire."

"From this position, they say, pressure could be brought to bear on Israel to enter into negotiations which might ultimately result in the entire territory being returned to Syrian control... some analysts believe that even such moderate states as Egypt and Jordan might be drawn into a pan-Arab war coalition, capable of fielding a total of 3.5 million men."

President Assad said Saturday Syria was determined to achieve military parity with Israel and liberate occupied Arab land even at

the cost of economic austerity.

"We are aware of Israel's expansionist plans... and are ready to live under maximum austerity to achieve our goal of strategic balance, towards which we have gone a reasonable way," he said in a speech marking the 23rd anniversary of the revolution which brought his Baath Party to power.

Mr. Assad said U.S. aid to Israel last year was about \$5 billion. "In spite of the fact that Syria does not receive such aid, it will press ahead with the goal of liberating occupied Arab territories," he added.

"Israel, with its three million population, has the highest percentage of military recruitment in the world," he said, adding that its defence budget was higher than that of Syria with a population of 12 million.

Calling for faster political, military, economic and social development, he added: "Despite our past victories against imperialism and Zionism, we are still facing big challenges which require such a buildup to achieve a strong, capable homeland."

## Israel denies entry to Black Hebrews

**TEL AVIV (Agencies)** — Israel denied entry to 26 members of a secretive cult from the United States which claims direct lineage to the Biblical tribes of Israel, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

Members of the cult known as the Black Hebrews, which has a community of some 2,000 in Israel, arrived at Lod airport near Tel Aviv on Friday and spent a day there before flying back to the United States Saturday night.

Witnesses said the group, which included several children, held prayers at the airport terminal before boarding a flight to return to its home in Mt. Vernon, New York.

Spokesman Yitzhak Agasi said

the travellers were turned back "because they are members of the Black Hebrews sect."

"We are very careful about black visitors, especially Black Hebrews," whose sect is not considered Jewish by Israel, Agasi told the Associated Press by telephone.

Israel has denied residence visas to some 2,000 Black Hebrews, most of them Americans who arrived in the 1970's as tourists and waived U.S. citizenship. Most live in the southern desert cities of Dimona and Arad.

The Black Hebrews are criticised as a closed community that shuns Israel authorities. Some reject modern medicine for religious reasons and send their chil-

dren to separate schools.

The sect claims descent from Biblical Israelite tribes. Their rituals combine Christian and Jewish practices and are not recognised by rabbinical authorities.

Some Black Hebrews are sought by the FBI for alleged fraud and other crimes. Agasi said there were no plans to deport any Black Hebrews but to bar entry to others.

Israel has allowed the Black Hebrews already in Dimona to remain on expired tourist visas, apparently fearing expulsion would anger the black community in the United States.

## Israel frees 50 jailed Palestinians

**TEL AVIV (R)** — Israel last week freed about 50 Palestinians detained without trial for suspected security offences in the occupied West Bank, an Israeli official said Sunday.

A further 35 Palestinians remain in so-called administrative detention, according to military statistics.

State radio attributed the releases to an attempt to relieve overcrowded jail facilities in the West Bank. The official said the detainees were freed because of relative calm in the area.

Israel renewed detentions last summer as part of its aggressive policy against suspected Palestinian resistance fighters following an increase in anti-Israeli attacks.

## Peres opposes U.S. arms sales to S. Arabia

**TEL AVIV (R)** — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday Israel would firmly object to a proposed \$350 million U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia, according to a cabinet statement.

"This is consistent with the opposition to arms supplies to every country in a state of war with Israel," it quoted Peres as telling the weekly cabinet meeting.

Earlier, Peres' spokesman denied a report in the Israeli Haaretz daily which said the prime minister had told Jewish lobbyists in Washington that Israel would make only token objections to the deal.

## 17 foreigners now missing in Lebanon

**BEIRUT (R)** — The kidnapping of a four-man French television crew brings to 17 the number of foreigners missing believed kidnapped in Lebanon over the past two years.

The Islamic Jihad (holy war) group announced Sunday it had seized Philippe Rochot, Georges Hansen, Aurel Cornea and Jean-Louis Normandin as they were returning from filming a fundamentalist rally in a Shi'ite Muslim suburb of Beirut.

Islamic Jihad has claimed most of the other abductions of foreigners in Muslim-held west Beirut. Here is a chronology:

— March 16, 1985: U.S. embassy political officer William Buckley, 57, is seized near his home. On Oct. 4, 1985, Islamic Jihad announces it has "executed" him as a spy but his body is not found.

— Nov. 30, 1984: American University librarian Peter Kilburn, 61, disappears. Islamic Jihad at first claims to have kidnapped him, but drops his name

from later statements.

— Jan. 8, 1985: Catholic priest Lawrence Jenco, Beirut head of the U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services, is seized driving to work. Islamic Jihad claims kidnapping.

— March 16, 1985: American Terry Anderson, 38, Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press news agency, is abducted outside the house of a colleague. Islamic Jihad claims kidnapping.

— March 22, 1985: Marcel Fontaine, French embassy vice-consul, 43, and Marcel Carton, attaché, 62, are kidnapped near the French embassy. Islamic Jihad claims kidnapping.

— March 25, 1985: British journalist Alec Collett, 63, is seized just south of Beirut on assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). His abduction is claimed by the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims, believed to be a cover name used by the radical Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal.

— May 22, 1985: French Sociologist Michel Saurat, 38, and French journalist Jean-Paul Camfranc, 42, are seized shortly after arriving at Beirut airport. Islamic Jihad announced Saurat's "execution." No body has been found.

— May 28, 1985: American Hospital Director David Jacobson, 54, is kidnapped as he walks to work. Islamic Jihad claims kidnapping.

— June 9, 1985: American University Dean of Agriculture Thomas Sutherland is seized while driving from Beirut airport to the university. Islamic Jihad claims kidnapping.

— Sept. 11, 1985: Italian businessman Alberto Molinari, 60, is kidnapped near the "Green Line" battle front between east and west Beirut. No claim.

— Jan. 31, 1986: South Korean Embassy Second Secretary Chao Do-Sung, 43, is abducted while driving to work. No claim.

## Lebanon's war handicapped learn new skills

By Mohammad Berjawi  
Reuters

**BEIRUT** — "I was on my way to buy potatoes at a shop just down the road when it happened. There was a terrible flash and then nothing. The next thing I knew I was in hospital," said 23-year-old Suad Subra.

Several steel fragments from the shell-burst struck Subra's head and back. Two sliced into her spine, confining the slim office secretary to a wheelchair.

She is one of 256 crippled or partially disabled people who joined together in 1981 to form Lebanon's first handicapped association during a civil war that has cost at least 100,000 lives and immiserated injured over 11 years.

The group helps members — most, but not all, of whom have been wounded in the war — to learn new skills and return to a near-normal life after weeks or months in hospital.

Subra, paralysed by in 1976, is one of more than 60 of the association's artists and handicraft workers whose products are being shown at a public exhibition in Beirut.

Oil paintings, wood carvings, leatherwork and carpets show how they have overcome the pain and shock of disability to achieve a measure of independence.

Association Chairman Zakiyeh Abdallah, a 33-year-old who suffered from polio as a child, said 35 members were currently being trained in workshops and factories.

"Anyone who gets involved in any political activity will be subject to expulsion... This union is for all of Lebanon's sects and for the whole of Lebanon," he said.

"We get some help from several Lebanese political organisations but we do not allow them to make use of us. We deal with all sides in the same way," he added.

The group has also helped foreigners including Syrians, Pal-

estinis and Saudis. "One of our greatest achievements was evacuating 13 Saudi Arabian children from a rehabilitation centre during the Israeli invasion (of Lebanon) in 1982," Abdallah said.

The association could not afford to send people overseas for special treatment but the handicraft exhibition had raised 15,000 pounds (\$750) in the first three days, he said.

Subra now heads every day across Beirut's "Green Line" battlefield to her employers' office where she says she manages to put in a full day's work.

Another successful self-help member was Ismail Farhan, a 20-year-old who said he lost a leg in an explosion at Beirut's Sabra Palestinian Refugee Camp in 1984.

"It has made all the difference. When I joined I was discouraged by what I found and started to work again," he said.

| TV & RADIO  |  | WHAT'S GOING ON   |  | FOR THE TRAVELLER   |  | USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.  |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b><br>Tel: 773111<br><br><b>PROGRAMME ONE</b><br>16:00 ..... Korna<br>16:20 ..... Cartoons<br>16:40 ..... Mickey Mouse<br>17:20 ..... Children programmes<br>17:50 ..... Small Wonder<br>18:15 ..... Local Series<br>19:20 Local programme on development<br><br>20:00 ..... News in Arabic<br>20:30 ..... Arabic series<br>21:25 ..... Varieties<br>21:40 ..... Tomorrow's programme<br>21:50 ..... Arabic film<br>22:00 ..... News Summary in Arabic<br>23:10 ..... Film Continued<br><br><b>PROGRAMME TWO</b><br>18:40 ..... Apostrophes<br>19:00 ..... News in French<br>19:20 ..... Magazine Sports (French)<br>19:30 ..... News in Hebrew<br>20:00 ..... News in Arabic<br>20:30 ..... Carol Burnett And Friends<br>21:00 Interview with plastic artist Hourie Laraki<br>21:10 ..... Sense and Sensibility<br>22:00 ..... News in English<br>22:30 ..... Dollars<br><br><b>RADIO JORDAN</b><br>85.5 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM<br>& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW<br>Tel: 774111-19<br><br>07:00 ..... Light Music<br>07:30 ..... Newsweek<br>07:45 ..... Morning Show<br>08:00 ..... News Summary<br>08:15 ..... Pop Session<br>08:30 ..... News Summary<br>08:45 ..... Pop Session<br>09:00 ..... News Summary<br>09:15 ..... Pop Session<br>09:30 ..... News Summary<br>09:45 ..... Pop Session<br>10:00 ..... News Summary<br>10:15 ..... Pop Session<br>10:30 ..... News Summary<br>10:45 ..... Pop Session<br>11:00 ..... News Summary<br>11:15 ..... Pop Session<br>11:30 ..... News Summary<br>11:45 ..... Pop Session<br>12:00 ..... News Summary<br>12:15 ..... Pop Session<br>12:30 ..... News Summary<br>12:45 ..... Pop Session<br>13:00 ..... News Summary<br>13:15 ..... Pop Session<br>13:30 ..... News Summary<br>13:45 ..... Pop Session<br>14:00 ..... News Summary<br>14:15 ..... Pop Session<br>14:30 ..... News Summary<br>14:45 ..... Pop Session<br>15:00 ..... News Summary<br>15:15 ..... Pop Session<br>15:30 ..... News Summary<br>15:45 ..... Pop Session<br>16:00 ..... News Summary<br>16:15 ..... Pop Session<br>16:30 ..... News Summary<br>16:45 ..... Pop Session<br>17:00 ..... The 15th Century A.H.<br>17:30 ..... Pop Session<br>18:00 ..... News Summary<br>18:30 ..... Sports Round-up<br>18:45 ..... Special Feature<br>19:00 ..... Newsweek<br>19:30 ..... Date with a Star |  | <b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b><br><br><b>EXHIBITIONS</b><br><br>An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 11).<br><br>* French cinema exhibition entitled "Cinema, Cinema" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 13).<br><br>* A book exhibition at the local community development centre at Hay Hamla, Hamla, organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (until March 13).<br><br><b>PLAY</b><br><br>* A French play entitled "L'Avare" by Moliere at 4.00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.<br><br><b>HALLEY'S COMET DIAMOLOGUE</b><br><br>* At 7.00 p.m. today, the American Centre will hold an electronic dialogue on Halley's Comet satellite link with Dr. John Brandt. The dialogue will be preceded by two videos on the Halley's Comet at 6.00 p.m.<br><br><b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b><br><br>Royal Cultural Centre ..... tel. 6610267<br>American Centre ..... 644371<br>American Centre Library ..... 641520<br>British Centre ..... 6361478<br>French Cultural Centre ..... 637009<br>Goethe Institute ..... 641993<br>Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 644205<br>Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 620409<br>Swedish Cultural Centre ..... 639729<br>Hayat Arts Centre ..... 665195<br>Hussain Youth City ..... 6671816<br>Y.W.C.A. ..... 641793<br>Y.W.C.A. Library ..... 664251<br>American Muslim Library ..... 637111<br>University of Jordan Library 843555<br><br><b>MUSEUMS</b><br><br>Fakhra Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics |  | <b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b><br><br><i>This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.</i><br><br><b>ARRIVALS</b><br><br>09:35 ..... Kuwait (RJ)<br>09:45 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)<br>09:45 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)<br>10:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)<br>10:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)<br>12:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)<br>13:00 ..... Dhahran (TK)<br>13:15 ..... Kuwait (RJ)<br>15:10 ..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)<br>17:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)<br>18:15 ..... Beirut (MEA)<br>18:35 ..... Cairo (RJ)<br>18:45 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)<br>19:00 ..... Bangkok (RJ)<br>19:25 ..... Baghdad (IA)<br>19:30 ..... Baghdad (RJ)<br><br><b>DEPARTURES</b><br><br>06:45 ..... Damascus, Athens (OA)<br>06:45 ..... Frankfurt (LH)<br>08:15 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)<br>11:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)<br><br>12:00 ..... Larnaca, Paris (RJ)<br>12:15 ..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)<br>12:30 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)<br>13:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)<br>14:25 ..... Istanbul (TK)<br>14:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)<br>15:10 ..... Medina, Jeddah (SV)<br>15:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)<br>16:30 ..... Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)<br>19:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)<br>20:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)<br>20:15 ..... Baghdad (RJ)<br>20:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)<br>20:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)<br><br>04:30 ..... Fair<br>05:35 ..... (Surprise) Dubai<br>11:67 ..... Doha<br>17:40 ..... Asir<br>19:00 ..... Medina<br>21:15 ..... Irbid |  | <b>MARITIME TRAFFIC</b><br><br><i>Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:</i><br><br>--- Rakhov<br>--- Ibn Abdoun<br>--- Marjan Arabia<br>--- Kite Emerald<br><br>Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel: 623234-9 at your service.<br><br><b>WEATHER</b><br><br><i>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</i><br><br>A decrease in temperature is expected with the appearance of clouds at different altitudes; and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and northerly moderate winds will become fresh at times, and calm sea.<br><br>Amman ..... 8/17<br>Aqaba ..... 8/16<br>Deserts ..... 8/19<br>Jordan Valley ..... 10/24<br><br>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.<br><br><b>MONEY EXCHANGE</b><br><br><i>Sunday rates<br/> Local sell/buy rates in fils</i><br><br>Bahraini dinar ..... 138/7 140/2<br>Dutch guilder ..... 200/20 206<br>Egyptian guinea ..... 30/9 31/4<br>Iraqi dinar ..... 34/4 35/2<br>Japanese yen (for 100) 195/1 197/4<br>Kuwaiti dinar ..... 126/7 127/4<br>Lebanese lira ..... 14/ 16<br>Omani rial ..... 94/0 95/0<br>Qatari rial ..... 99/ 101<br>Saudi rial ..... 98/ 101<br>Swedish crown ..... 48/4 49<br>Swiss franc ..... 154/6 156/8<br>Syrian lira ..... 23/ 25<br>UAE dirham ..... 98/ 100<br>Yemeni rial ..... 508/8 514/6<br>Yemeni rial ..... 350/2 353/4 |  | <b>EMERGENCIES</b><br><br>Amman governorate ..... 891228<br>Amman civil defence ..... 198, 199<br>Civil Defence Unit ..... 271293, 273131<br>Civil Defence Qawwashim ..... 770733<br>Ambulance ..... 197, 775111<br>Amman downtown fire brigade ..... 198<br>First aid ..... 630401<br>Blood bank ..... 778353<br>Civil Defence rescue ..... 661111<br>Fire headquarters ..... 622090-3<br>Police rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777<br>Police headquarters ..... 639141<br>Traffic police ..... 895900-1<br>Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881<br>Municipal water complaints 771125/8<br>Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533300/0<br><br><b>HOSPITALS</b><br><br>Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32<br>Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644281/6<br>Akhil Maternity, J. Amman ..... 642441/2<br>Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362<br>Hotel Al-Hussein ..... 636100<br>Palestine Shamsi ..... 664171/4<br>Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131<br>Shamsi Hospital ..... 845845/65<br>Al-Musalla Hospital ..... 666127/7<br>The Islamic, Abnafi ..... 666127/7<br>Al-Abil, Abnafi ..... 664164/6<br>Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3<br>Al-Badri, J. Amn ..... 891611/5<br>Amn, Marja ..... 602240/20<br>Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/20<br><br><b>NIGHT DUTY</b><br><br>AMMAN:<br>Dr. Hani Haddadin ..... 773285<br>Dr. Fawzi Nasur ..... 786689<br>Firas Pharmacy ..... 661912<br>Al Salan pharmacy ..... 639730<br>Badr pharmacy ..... 770211<br>Taqhadi pharmacy ..... 673476<br>Al Maghribat pharmacy ..... 662894<br><br><b>TAXIS:</b><br>Venetia taxi ..... 644583<br>Al Ahram taxi ..... 663911<br>Mehyar taxi ..... 644574<br>Assam taxi ..... 844503<br>Al Nahar taxi ..... 666022<br>Shamsi taxi ..... 811619<br>Shamsi taxi ..... 665294<br><br><b>IRBID:</b><br>Dr. Mohamad Ta'ani ..... 243711<br><br><b>ZARQA:</b><br>Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein ..... 983001<br>Kassir pharmacy ..... (---)<br><br><b>GENERAL</b><br><br>Jordan Television ..... 773111/19<br>Radio Jordan ..... 774111/19<br>Ministry of Tourism ..... 642311<br>Hotel Al-Hussein ..... 666100<br>Price complaints ..... 661176<br>Telephone Information ..... 12<br>Jordan and Middle East calls ..... 10<br>Overseas calls ..... 11<br>Repair service ..... 11 |  |
| <b>MARKET PRICES</b><br><br><i>Upper/lower price in fils per kg.</i><br><br>Apple ..... 240/200<br>Apple (American) ..... 300/450<br>Banana ..... 100/130<br>Banana (Meksumar) ..... 100/180<br>Beetroot ..... 130/200<br>Broad beans ..... 480/400<br>Cabbage ..... 200/150<br>Carrot (yellow) ..... 100/70<br>Carrot (black) ..... 130/100<br>Cauliflower ..... 130/100<br>Cucumber (large) ..... 140/100<br>Eggplant (large) ..... 220/180<br>Eggplant (small) ..... 180/140<br>Grapefruit ..... 130/100<br>Lemon ..... 170/130<br>Lentils (per eye) ..... 100/60<br>Marrow (large) ..... 100/80<br>Marrow (small) ..... 100/60<br>Onion (dry) ..... 100/140<br>Onion (green) ..... 100/60<br>Orange (Shamouti) ..... 180/140<br>Orange (local and Valencia) ..... 100/70<br>Pepper (black) ..... 100/140<br>Pepper (red) ..... 140/100<br>Potatoes (large) ..... 140/100<br>Potatoes (small) ..... 280/240<br>Radishes ..... 70/40<br>Spinach ..... 80/50   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |



## Cabinet announces decision to open consulate in Jeddah

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Sunday announced its decision to open a Jordanian consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The step was taken because the Jordanian embassy has been transferred to the capital, Riyadh, a cabinet statement said.

Also Sunday, the cabinet endorsed development projects in Jordan, a number of which have been exempted from customs duty. The decision was taken in the course of applying regulations to encourage investment in Jordan, the statement added.

On Saturday night the cabinet

endorsed regulations governing the investments of non-Jordanian Arab citizens in Jordan. The cabinet last month announced that Jordan welcomes Arab capital to be invested in tourism, industry, education, health and purchasing government bonds issued by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The cabinet also endorsed a programme for implementing a Chinese-Jordanian cultural agreement for the years 1986, 87 and 88 and approved JD 96,362 million budget for the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for 1986.

## JMA delegation leaves for medical talks in Algeria

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) led by its president, Dr. Hassan Kureis, left Amman Sunday for Algeria to take part in a meeting of the higher council of the Arab Doctors Federation, due to open in the Algerian capital Monday. The delegation will also take part in the Arab Medical Conference due to be held in Algiers between March 12 and 14.

The conference is expected to discuss the general health conditions in the occupied Arab territories and subjects connected with cancer and ways of treating it. Participants will also discuss surgery, pediatric surgery, community health and the treatment of heart diseases. There will be a number of seminars during the conference dealing with medical economy, general health, environmental pollution, emergency services and first aid, among other subjects.

The Jordan delegation will also attend a seminar on neurology due to be held in Algiers in the same period.

## Health Ministry, WHO hold course on storage of drugs

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional training course on the supply, storage and distribution of basic medicines began Sunday at the Department of Primary Health Care. The course is organised by the Health Ministry in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Director of Primary Health Care, Dr. Saleem Al Subeiti, delivering a speech in which he pointed out that recent years have witnessed a large increase in the number of pharmaceutical products in the market but he noted that this increase was not accompanied by a corresponding improvement in health because of the rising production of medicines and drugs did not take into consideration basic health needs and priorities. Dr. Subeiti also thanked the WHO regional manager and the 'organisation's' officials and officers in Amman for their efforts to hold the seminar.

Mr. Shawqi Beshara, co-

ordinator of the WHO centre for environmental activities, read a message from WHO Regional Manager Dr. Hussein Al Jaziri in which he pointed out the supply of some safe and effective medicines on a regular basis is one of the eight major principles in the WHO strategy for achieving health for all by the year 2000.

Participants in the seminar will be discussing practical steps of storage, administrative requirements for the storage of medicines as well as the use of computerised administrative systems in the countries of the East Mediterranean region.

Taking part in the seminar are delegations representing Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Tunisia, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, WHO and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

## Jerash to hold training courses for People's Army recruits

JERASH (Petra) — Preparations have been taken for starting training courses for recruits of the People's Army in Jerash district on March 15, according to an announcement by district governor Hussein Al Habashneh.

He said that the issue was discussed during a meeting held at the chamber of commerce here and he added that agreement was reached for drawing up lists of recruits among government employees, students and other citizens aged between 16 and 55.

Five centres for training have been opened, three of which are

located in Jerash and one in Kufri Khalil and the fifth at Balila, Mr. Habashneh said.

The meeting was attended by the military governor of Irbid region and the commander of the People's Army as well as notables and leading personalities in Jerash.

Mr. Habashneh, accompanied by other officials, later inspected People's Army training centres in Baal Kanana district and Mr. Habashneh said that the first batch of recruits will be turned out by the end of this month.

## Arab Ports Union board elects Jordan as chairman for 2 years

AQABA (Petra) — Jordan has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Ports Union for the next two years. The decision was made during the board's meetings held in Djibouti at the end of last month. Ports Corporation Director General Bassam Qaqish, who represented Jordan in these meetings, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the meetings discussed a number of topics related to setting up a higher institute for the management of Arab ports as well as developing the marine training institute in Aqaba.

The board of directors, he added, discussed the issue of reorganising the structure of Arab port unions which comprise the Arab Ports Union, the North African Ports Union as well as the

Union of Arab Gulf States Ports. The Arab Ports Union asked the Ports Corporation director general to raise this issue during the meetings of North African Ports Union which will be held in Algeria on April 8, according to Mr. Qaqish. He also said that the next meeting of the Arab Ports Union will be held in Syria in March next year. Taking part in the meetings were delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Somalia, Libya and Djibouti.

Mr. Qaqish also said that he and officials at the ports corporation in Djibouti discussed coordination between the two corporations with regard to the transport of containers. He added that the director general of the ports corporation in Djibouti will visit Jordan at a later date.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yugoslav firm to supply rails for ARC

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yugoslav firm will supply iron rails for a railway linking Ma'an with Aqaba at a cost of \$4 million, in accordance with an agreement signed at the Ministry of Transport Sunday. The rails are required by the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) which is now undertaking to replace and service the line between the two points. The agreement was signed by ARC Director-General Mardi Qatameen and the director general of the Yugoslav company.

### JNRCS president leaves for Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura left for Casablanca, Morocco, Sunday to chair a meeting of a special committee entrusted with discussing the possibility of holding a training course on human international law in Amman.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Sunday attends the inaugural ceremony of the National Dental Day at the Women's Vocational School in Amman (Petra) (photo)

## Ministry plans to increase number of dental clinics, Hamzeh says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh said Sunday that his ministry has drafted a plan for the coming five years to increase the number of government-staffed dentistry clinics throughout the Kingdom.

Patronising events to mark national dental day, which has been jointly organised by the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA), the Ministries of Health and Education and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Dr. Hamzeh said that the plan will provide a dentist's clinic at each medical centre in the rural areas. The minister praised the efforts of the JDA and the concerned ministries in sponsoring the national day and he noted that more than 250,000 patients are visiting the government dentistry clinics each year due to increasing public awareness about the importance of dental care and oral hygiene.

In his speech, Higher Education

Director Izat Jaradat stressed that promoting health care amongst children is an important part of the educational process. The health education policy of the Ministry of Education does not only include basic medical care and vaccination campaigns but also wide-spread programmes to promote public awareness and medical guidance services, Dr. Jaradat said.

JDA President Walid Maraqa, in his address said that the idea of the national dental day was born three years ago when dentists noted a rising incidence of dental caries and periodontal diseases due to lack of public awareness. This prompted the drawing up of a comprehensive plan and a continued programme to spread public awareness through various means, including the media, Dr. Maraqa continued.

Activities to mark dental day include lectures on dental care and oral hygiene which will be delivered at schools. Slides, documentaries, brochures and painting exhibitions will also be

shown to public and school children within the comprehensive scheme, Dr. Maraqa said. He added that the association suggested that the day be on a regional level and he added that the proposal was accepted.

In his speech, Dr. Mohammad Ali Halabi, director of school health at the Ministry of Education, spoke about the introduction of school health services in 1975. Discussing the achievements of school dental teams in the past year, Dr. Halabi said that the teams have examined 108,000 students out of which approximately 77,000 students were found to have some forms of dental disease. This is about 72 per cent of the total number examined, he added.

Dr. Nasrallah Nasrallah, a representative from the JDA's information and education committee, earlier addressed the audience and said that dental day has become a pan-Arab event following the success of Jordan's three-year-old experience.

## General conference to review activities of municipalities, local councils

AMMAN (Petra) — A general conference on Jordanian municipalities will be held in Aqaba between March 15 and 18 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment on Sunday.

The announcement by the ministry's under secretary, Mr. Awad Al Tal, was made following a meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal Affairs Marwan Hmoud and which discussed preparations for the general conference, the agenda and the procedural matters for holding it. Mr. Tal said that the conference will be held under the slogan of developing and modernising local administration in the provinces in order to build a better society. The conference will open on March 15,

which is the anniversary of Arab city day, Mr. Tal added.

He said that the idea of the conference stemmed from suggestions made during several meetings that were held between ministry officials and mayors, especially one held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai during which matters of concern to local councils and ways to develop public services in the provinces were discussed.

Mr. Tal said the conference aims at creating the opportunity for mayors and heads of village councils to study modern concepts and techniques employed in the implementation of development projects that will be linked with the national five-year development scheme and ways of involving the heads of local councils in laying down rules and laws that govern their council's activities.

The conference will address itself to the difficulties and problems that impede the work of local councils with a view to finding proper measures for solutions and will serve as a good opportunity for the heads of different local councils to exchange information and expertise on matters of concern to their regions, Mr. Tal continued.

He said that a total of 13 working papers have been prepared by specialists and experienced people in local council affairs to be discussed by the participants. These papers deal with ways of raising the efficiency of council management, public participation in protecting the environment and traditional architecture, modern construction, council's revenues, developing laws and regulations on public services and council's functions among many others, Mr. Tal added.

## French envoy in Beirut in bid to resolve crisis

(Continued from page 1)

whatsoever" about the kidnapping of the French crew. Gen. Osman voiced dismay that the Frenchmen were driving around the Shi'ite populated southern suburbs when they were seized.

"Their presence there was a mistake," he commented.

He said detectives are questioning the crew's driver.

The driver was held by the kidnappers for seven hours before he was freed late Saturday night and told to keep his mouth shut.

The caller declared: "We give the French government one week to recover our two comrades from

the dungeons of the Iraqi regime." Islamic Jihad, believed made up of Shi'ite fundamentalists loyal to Iran, claimed last week it killed Michel Seurat, one of four French hostages it holds, in retaliation for the deportations.

An anonymous caller Saturday warned that the extremists will kill another hostage, possibly one of two French diplomats it holds, if the two Iraqis are not returned to France.

There was no way to authenticate Sunday's call.

Saturday's caller stressed the kidnappers are prepared to meet with Raad Raad, a Lebanese-born French heart specialist who

has sought to secure the release of Mr. Seurat and the other three hostages.

In Paris, airport sources said, Dr. Raad had left aboard a Syrian Airlines flight for Damascus. French embassy officials in Damascus said Mr. Seurat arrived in Syria Saturday night to investigate the hostages' plight.

"After the French government's rejection of the two new demands which we released yesterday and its insistence on sending envoys to the area... we do not demand to negotiate with anyone, but we do not reject a visit by Dr. Raad," the latest Islamic Jihad statement said.

## Seminar urges boosted facilities for Arabsat

(Continued from page 1)

Arabsat telecommunication facilities should be formed in order to increase awareness about the various services offered by Arabsat and thus increasing Arab investment in the project.

The services that Arabsat can provide include teleconferencing, transmitting banking and other business data, electronic mail processing and transmitting graphic material for printing newspapers.

The seminar recommended that the proposed committee be entrusted with contacting government organisations, private sector companies, banks, Arab universities, and scientific research centres to promote investment in Arabsat facilities.

On education and culture, the seminar said Arab countries should produce documentaries and television series which outline and deepen concepts of the Arab-Islamic culture and the cultural

dimensions of the Arab World.

These programmes, they said, form a strong base to combat the increasing dangers of foreign and imported cultural films. Participants also urged Arabsat to reconsider Egypt's membership in the organisation which was suspended in 1979 after Egypt signed a separate peace treaty with Israel.

They also requested a review of a 1976 Arabsat agreement regarding members' right to vote. Under the agreement, each country has one vote. The new request is that each share in the organisation may be allowed one vote.

Arabsat can also relay information and data on space technology that will enable the Arab World to develop its own space communication industry and the seminar called for the establishment of a space communication research centre to carry out research connected with

developing space technology.

The participants preferred that such a centre should work in cooperation with an Arab university and be supported by the Arabsat organisation.

The conference, which was attended by scientists and educationalists from Tunisia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Iraq and Jordan, also urged the formation of an Arab space committee to form a unified Arab space strategy and to lay the foundations for the launch of the second generation of Arabsat satellites.

The Arab League Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) also attended the meetings.

The seminar was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

## Arab parliamentarians gather in Amman for APU council, talks on Mideast situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 150 Arab parliamentarians from 14 Arab states gathered here Sunday to attend meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) general council on Monday, the union's official opening on Tuesday and a seminar related to the conference which will be held on Thursday.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to open the APU's official conference on Tuesday and deliver a speech which will focus on the latest developments in the Palestine question, the Iran-Iraq war and Lebanon.

Preparations were completed Sunday evening for the opening of the APU sessions at the parliament building and slogans such as "Palestine's salvation will be achieved through unity" and "We wish the Arab delegates success" were posted in the premises.

According to Mr. Hani Kheir, secretary general of the Lower House of Parliament, the APU's official sessions will end on Wednesday with the announcement of recommendations. The APU, which was established in 1974, groups all Arab countries which have parliaments: Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Iraq, Somalia, Djibouti, North Yemen, South Yemen, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Sudan. All members, except Sudan and Egypt, will attend the meeting, according to Mr. Kheir.

Egypt's membership of the APU was suspended in 1979 after it signed the Camp David accord while Sudan, at the moment, has

no parliament due to last year's coup which toppled president Numeiri.

According to Mr. Kheir, Monday's council meeting will open at the Holiday Inn Hotel and will be chaired by the current APU President Ali Al Salami of North Yemen who will hand over the chair to Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

In Monday's session, delegates will discuss APU's achievements in 1985 and an application from Libya to join the APU as well as the agenda for the following day's general conference.

Mr. Mahmoud Al Zo'bi, speaker of the People's Council in Syria who arrived here by land via the border post of Ramtha, made a statement upon arrival underlining the importance of the parliamentary sessions. He said that the meetings come at a time when the Arab World is passing through a critical stage. The Arab parliamentarians ought to define the dangers of Zionism now threatening the Arab nation and Israel's continued drive to uproot the Arab inhabitants from their homeland with American support. Mr. Zo'bi told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Mahmoud Ali Ahmad, chairman of the legislative committee in Somalia, said upon arrival here that his country attaches great importance to the meetings in view of the difficult stage the Arab nation is going through. The conference should be regarded as a golden opportunity for the delegations to exchange views about the Arab and international situations, including the Palestine question and the Iranian aggression, he told Petra.

Dr. Amin Al Hafez, speaker of the Lebanese House of Parliament, said he was looking forward to the conference which will discuss the issue of Lebanon and its request for help from Arab countries to end the conflict and the suffering of the Lebanese people.

Mr. Sa'ad Qassem Hammoudi, chairman of the foreign relations committee in Iraq's parliament, arrived at the head of a delegation and said that the meeting will offer a good chance for Arab parliamentarians to exchange views about issues of concern to the Arab nation, such as the Gulf war, the Palestine question and the situation in Lebanon. Arab leaders should unify their stands in the face of urgent issues and in the light of dangerous developments in the Arab region, Mr. Hammoudi said.

The Iraqi delegation, he said, will outline to the meeting the recent Iranian aggression on Iraq and Iran's continued threats against the Arab Gulf states. "The Iraqi delegation hopes to enlist further support for Iraq in its war to defend the Arab nation," Mr. Hammoudi continued.

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## Dakhqan meets farmers in Mafraq area

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture hopes to apply the agricultural cropping pattern system in Jordan with the purpose of achieving a balance in the different types of crops being grown in Jordan and the needs for the local market and for export. Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan said here Sunday.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with farmers in the Mafraq district with whom he discussed farming problems in the area. The new system requires farmers to grow certain types of crops for which they can receive a government subsidy, the minister said.

This system, he added, aims to safeguard the farmers' interests and also to boost the national economy by providing surplus produce for export. Mr. Dakhqan said. The government has made contacts with importers in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon for purchasing this surplus and Jordanian trucks have been exempted from paying JD 70 transit fees to facilitate the exports, the minister added.

He went on to say that the government is going ahead with plans to open other foreign markets for Jordanian crops and has for this reason started talks with the European Community to sound out their views about importing Jordanian agricultural products. Foreign markets, he said, require that Jordanian farmers grow the types of crops which are in demand in other countries and it also means

that there must be a good system for grading and packing the crops so that they can compete with products from other countries.

Referring to the production of tomatoes in Jordan, Mr. Dakhqan pointed out that Mafraq Governorate has been assigned 11,000 dunams in which to grow this commodity for consumption, processing and export. The Ministry of Agriculture has been coordinating its plans with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) to organise the process of absorbing local tomatoes and it has set up cold stores to keep tomatoes for up to a fortnight, the minister pointed out.

Several senior government officials attended the meeting.

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## Full text of PLO's statement on Middle East peace

Following is the full text of a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) statement issued on Saturday in Tunis following a top-level PLO meeting to discuss Jordan's termination of political coordination with the organisation's leadership:

The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Central Committee of Fatah have studied the current political situation and its dimensions with special attention to the successive developments in the Arab and Palestinian arena. They studied the U.S.-Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian people and their national rights and on the PLO and the achievements of the Palestinian people realised through its struggle and sacrifice.

The committee also reviewed in particular the developments in the occupied Arab territories and noted with deep pride the united attitudes of the Palestinian people, who continue to defy and resist Zionist occupation and Israel's conspiracies and plans, and take pride over the solid resistance of the Palestinian people in defence of their existence, destiny and freedom.

This Palestinian people has reaffirmed total support for the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in firm commitment to the basic national principles endorsed by the Palestinian councils and to which the PLO is firmly committed.

The committee also reviewed the course of efforts which the PLO has been following in cooperation with all Palestinian factions and studied the situation in the refugee camps in Lebanon and steadfast resistance which the people there have put up in the face of conspiracies designed to evict them from that country. The committee also looked into the strong relationship between the Palestinians and Lebanese people and their joint heroic struggle against Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon.

The committee also reviewed reports submitted to it about the political activities which the PLO leadership had been undertaking in Palestinian, Arab and international affairs.

On the Arab front, the committee followed up reports about the Iran-Iraq war in the light of the latest Iranian invasion and the steadfastness of the Iraqi Armed Forces and their daring confrontation of the aggression in defence of Arab soil. The committee viewed with great satisfaction the great achievements of the Iraqi Armed Forces in their defence of Arab land bearing in mind that Iraqi successes augur well for the whole region and pave the way for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in a manner that would protect the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples as well as the Palestinian cause.

After reviewing the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and new developments in the region, the committee focused attention on His Majesty King Hussein's nationwide address on Feb. 19, 1986, and the PLO leadership finds it necessary to clarify facts for the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation in a bid to remove all ambiguity in the PLO's stand and the subjects that were discussed.

The PLO emphasises the following:

First: The PLO does not see it necessary here to return to all the difficulties that obstructed the representation of the Palestinian people in the period that preceded the establishment of the PLO. But it likes to stress the basic right of the Palestinian people to choose their representatives and that no-one has the right to subject this question to any argument. The PLO has fully shouldered this responsibility through cohesion between the resistance and the political framework of the Palestinian people and through sacrifice and resistance on the part of the Palestinian people. The PLO has become a real embodiment of resistance designed to regaining the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The PLO has come to be recognised as the representative of the Palestinian people on the Arab and international scenes.

The Rabat summit conference of 1974 put emphasis to this fact, which was later endorsed by United Nations resolutions and those of the non-aligned nations, the African and Asian countries, the Islamic as well as the Socialist and other friendly nations, recognising the PLO as the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. From the beginning this representation came a political and recognised reality and the PLO has become to be accepted as an embodiment of the Palestinian identity in every respect representing the national aspirations of the people. This fact has been supported by the Palestinian people and has never been objected to by anyone because it does not conflict with the aspirations and struggle of the Palestinian people.

Second: The Palestinian people's struggle led by the PLO is an achievement for all the Palestinian

people inside and outside the occupied Palestinian land. It should be noted that the Zionist enemy would not have sent its armies to Lebanon to hit PLO bases nor would it have sent its planes to strike at the PLO in Tunis had it not known that these bases constituted the main source of danger for Israel. The struggle and achievements of the Palestinian people should not be separated from one another and could not be turned over to other parties; however, the Palestinian people deeply appreciate Arab and friendly countries' contributions to the Palestinian struggle.

Third: Any attempt to separate the PLO and the people or the PLO and its leadership or its various institutions should be considered as a vain attempt directed against the great Palestinian people who have gained a great deal of experience in the course of confronting all challenges and conspiracies and who have voiced deep allegiance and commitment to the PLO and its leadership. This people can abort any attempt to create an alternative leadership for them. Our people remind us of the Algerian experiment in which the Algerian people were able to foil all conspiracies to isolate the leadership from the people in the long struggle against French colonialism. The Algerian people upheld the slogan of "the leadership is the people and the people is the leadership" — something which is being exactly applied by the Palestinians.

This is the maximum embodiment of the deep relationship between the people and its leadership. This relationship has been confirmed by commitments and by the organic link between the idea of liberating the land and the people and the great sacrifice offered by many of our martyrs for this cause in the great march under PLO leadership towards victory and liberation.

Fourth: Unity of the Palestinian people's struggle reflects the unity of the Palestinian people and their cause in terms of principle. Therefore, no-one has the right to separate the Palestinian people living inside the occupied territories from those outside or separate the land from the people or the people from the PLO or the PLO from its leadership or any other classification. The Palestine question is of the Palestinian people as a whole and this is a national issue and involves political rights. It is also an issue of the relationship between the citizen and the homeland and the land regardless whether the Palestinian citizen is living on the land or deported from it. Any separation of any kind means introducing the idea of an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, one that entails a big danger for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, as much as it is a danger to the lands of other countries where the alternative homeland is designed. Our brothers in Jordan realise that danger inherent in the conspiracy that threatens Jordan and the PLO alike.

The PLO would like to note that the separation and disintegration of the Palestinian people and their cause had been from the start a Zionist idea suggested since the start of Jewish immigration to Palestine up to the Camp David conspiracy. The idea of an alternative homeland had been an old Zionist idea and also the idea of an alternative PLO leadership for the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They are all Zionist ideas like the ill-fated village leagues. Israel is certain to propose others and now it continues to meet with strong rejection from our people who have been struggling to foil all conspiracies aimed at settling the Palestinians and creating other homelands for them. We can cite many instances through history which are still alive in the memory of all people. All conspiracies to settle the Palestinian people in Sinai, Jordan, Syria, South Lebanon have been aborted and the Palestinians continue to foil all conspiracies designed to create another homeland for them in Jordan. The Palestinian people continue to raise the slogan of Palestine as the homeland of the Palestinians and they accept no other because it is an Arab land.

Acting on these principles which are of paramount importance and great sensitivity for the Palestinian people, the PLO would like to clarify its own position with regard to the subjects connected with the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the course and direction of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action and also the PLO's stand with regard to Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the quest for a just and comprehensive settlement.

First: The PLO bases its convictions on sound faith in the uni-

que relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in the true meaning of the word. The PLO is careful to forego all negative elements in its relationship with Jordan — the relationship which was renewed with a visit by Abu Ammar (PLO chairman Yasser Arafat) to Jordan in the 1970s and followed by Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi to Jordan and through the joint Arab committee formed by the Baghdad Arab summit and the continued meetings between the two sides.

The PLO had taken the initiative towards building this relationship stemming from the conviction that Jordan and Palestine are linked by a unique relation. The PLO wanted to enhance this conviction through practice and through a joint attainment of a joint formula that would give this relationship positive reality, which is required in the confrontation with the enemy. The PLO wanted to draw up a joint action with Jordan in the face of a new Zionist tune advocating the idea of establishing a homeland for the Palestinians on the East Bank of the Jordan River.

There was another tune — resolving the Palestine issue on the West Bank through an Israeli formula which would of course be implemented at the expense of the Palestinian people and with the help of imposing the so-called autonomous rule. The PLO saw clearly the danger inherent in the two conspiracies and found that the correct solution comes through joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to be based on a balanced relationship that could form a nucleus for a united effective Arab move.

This idea which was the brainchild of the PLO and which was followed by contacts, dialogues and agreements, constituted the background for the later developments in the relationship between the PLO and Jordan.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) 16th meeting held in Amman in 1983 and the 17th meeting later both emphasised the unique relationship and the future confederation framework based on the Palestinian initiative. The PLO's political decision was based on previous Arab summit resolutions starting from the Rabat summit of 1974.

Second: This constituent stage

formed the basis of the Palestinian stand in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

That stage witnessed the emergence of the Reagan proposal which was turned down by the PLO. At that stage also there appeared a positive strategic transformation on the Arab front taking its shape eventually in the Arab peace proposal issued by the Fes Arab Summit.

The PLO saw in that proposal an important political dimension particularly as it has enjoyed a unanimous Arab approval.

The PLO was then focusing attention on reaching some form of relationship with Jordan based on common destiny, one that would be enhanced by initial agreement on a joint action based on the Arab peace proposal of Fes.

This view was considered following the failure of the seven member Arab committee in its mission that was designed to implement the Fes summit resolution but due to divergence of views between the PLO and Jordan over the Reagan proposal which was approved by Jordan, created differences between them ending in no agreement at all.

Third: Towards the end of 1984 and the beginning of 1985 a new stage began with King Hussein's initiative by endorsing the idea of holding the PNC meeting in Amman. The discussions and the meetings that followed ended with the Feb. 11, 1985 accord and which was called the common Jordanian-Palestinian action accord.

Acting on this accord the two sides later laid down a plan for a joint political action on the international level for the sake of creating suitable conditions for holding an international conference in accordance with Palestinian and Arab vision.

As to the projected conference, Jordan promised to exert all possible efforts with Arab countries and with the United States to make it accept the idea of an international conference. Despite the fact that the PLO had realised the American stand and its total disregard to the Palestinian national rights PLO found that such endeavour does not contradict the joint march and that Jordan could affect the American stand.

Jordan indeed made several attempts in this direction spread

over several months resulting, as Jordan told the PLO, in an unchanged American stand, namely the rejection of the national rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination. The United States has insisted that the PLO accept resolutions 242 and 338 in advance and recognise Israel's right to exist within secure and recognised boundaries and a PLO declaration renouncing armed struggle in exchange for the U.S. acceptance of the PLO to take part in the international conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

In addition, the U.S. has left open for Israel the right to reject what it sees unfit and unfavourable to its own interests.

Fourth: The PLO has repeated its declared position since the beginning towards the 242 resolution because it has ignored the core of Palestine question in terms of land and people or their rights or representatives.

The PLO made it clear that if it accepted the resolution without coupling it with the right to self-determination, to serve as a basis for an international conference, it would have accepted scrapping the Palestine question from that conference's agenda and the conference would then direct attention to the question of borders only.

The 242 resolution considers the Palestinian issue as a refugee problem, a point well explained in the Vance-Dayton declaration in 1977, and that the refugees in question are those of Arabs and Jews. As the PLO pointed out, the Jordan-PLO accord is a solution of the Palestine issue in all its aspects, a solution that cannot come about except through clearly guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinians as any other people on earth.

The right to self-determination is a sacred one guaranteed by all international charters and agreements of the United Nations and supported by all resolutions and declarations issued by the U.N. and by all summit meetings of Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries.

The right to self-determination was supported by the European Community nations in their Venice declaration of 1980 and was backed by all higher Christian authorities, the European Parliament and the Warsaw Pact.

Therefore, the Palestinian right to self-determination is not a mere internal problem or a bilateral issue for Jordan and the PLO, it is rather a natural, firm and sacred right which has been enhanced and bolstered by the sacrifices which the Palestinian people have offered and by the total Arab support.

The Palestinian people's adherence to their right of self-determination does not stop at the granting of this right but rather extends into practice over their liberated Arab land of Palestine. It is Zionist enemy, supported by the United States, not Jordan, that continues, to deny the Palestinian people the means to exercise their right.

Any Palestinian decision on the form of a relationship between the Palestinian state and Jordan, or any other Arab country, becomes a reality only when it is put into practice on the land after the end of the Israeli occupation.

Therefore the PLO insists that the self-determination right be one of the main principles on which the projected international conference could be held. This right should not be exposed to compromise, cancellation or neglect, and that is why the PLO insists on this right, because it can guarantee a just and comprehensive solution, free from injustice of any kind to the Palestinian people.

Fifth: The PLO rejects the U.S. concept of the international conference, which contradicts with the Palestinian and Arab concept with regard to the conference's authorities and objectives. The U.S. has been viewing the idea of an international conference as being only an international umbrella for initiating direct talks between the concerned parties, something which the PLO continues to reject. The PLO supports the formula suggested by the Casablanca Arab summit with regard to an international conference.

Sixth: The PLO views the American stand as one aiming at overlooking the basic points which the PLO, and which Jordan says it is keen on, to achieve just and durable solution. Washington has been working towards overlooking the PLO as being the rep-

(Continued on page 5)

## Elephants and Zionists never forget

IT IS strange and surprising how seasoned European diplomats tend to underestimate the aggressive, calculative, deceitful and revengeful nature of Zionism and its powerful propaganda machine which has come to overshadow Western and American information media. The mud-throwing that greeted Kurt Waldheim when he announced his intention to run for the Austrian presidency is the latest manifestation of the Zionist influence in the media and it was in no way an "unexpected revelation of facts" that the former U.N. secretary-general had a Nazi past, as reports suggested. Rather, the organised, tailor-made campaign against Dr. Waldheim had been under wraps ever since he incurred Israeli wrath during his tenure at the U.N.

It is no secret that Dr. Waldheim, in his days as U.N. secretary-general, had come to grips with the Israeli arrogance and the Jewish state's open defiance of all international norms and laws when he took a special interest in Middle East affairs. His open criticism of Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and aggression had enraged the Zionists and it cost him a third term at the U.N. But it was not enough for the Zionists: the latest accusations and allegations which threaten to wreck Dr. Waldheim's chances of ever winning the presidency were prepared and kept in the memory cells of the Zionist propaganda apparatus just for the occasion when he would announce his quest for further office in Austria or elsewhere. Charges in Vienna that Dr. Waldheim oppoents in the Austrian Socialist Party "leaked" secret documents to the media and World Jewish Congress only recently to discredit the former U.N. official could best be described as naive. Such charges, typical of the Austrian political scene from whence sprang into life some of the most powerful Zionist organisations, would only serve as a smokescreen for the Zionist brains which cooked up the anti-Waldheim campaign as early as 1980.

We can only sympathise with Dr. Waldheim, who finds himself in the most unenviable position of being the target of the Zionists, and hope that the Austrian people are wise enough to realise the true nature of the anti-Waldheim campaign and decide not to let such mud-slinging mar their judgement in electing the best among them, whoever it might be, to lead them.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: The EC role

AS U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy prepares to start another tour of the Middle East, the European Community embarks on a new bid through the Dutch foreign minister to try to find a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the United States realises that the solution of the problem lies with Israel which continues to lay obstacles in the path of all peace bids. The United States failed in the past to make Israel budge from its position and its intransigence, and the Europeans will now try to carry out the task, and we hope they will succeed in this endeavour. But for the Europeans to succeed, they should take a firm decision and call for a convening of a United Nations sponsored international conference so that the Europeans themselves together with the concerned parties can have a real chance to solve the issue. Further tolerance with the Israeli mal-practices is harmful to the European efforts which must be concentrated now before it is too late and before the Israeli evil actions should lead the region to an outbreak of another conflict.

#### Al Dustour: Arabsat and technology transfer

CROWN Prince Hassan emphasised in his address to the Arabsat seminar here Saturday the need of linking modern technology with Arab technical requirements with a view of benefiting from such technology as best as possible. He said modern technology and advanced sciences are needed now to help contribute to the development of the Arab World. The Arab satellite is no doubt another advanced means for linking the different parts of the Arab World with one another, thus contributing to the cohesion of Arabs and developing their culture and knowledge. As long as the space communications have a direct effect on every citizen in a civilised world it becomes incumbent on us as Arabs to try to benefit from the satellite which is now in orbit and which has been launched to offer us its service. This service will no doubt have a positive effect on our economic and social life and help us to keep abreast with modern developments. The Arab satellite is a tool for opening new scopes of knowledge for the Arab people.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Demand for unity

ARAB leaders might be in disagreement at present about a number of topics and they might be of different views as to ways of solving them. But it should be emphasised that the main issue which they confront is the Palestine problem and that all their efforts should be concerted for the sake of countering Israel's designs and ambitions in our region. Their first priority should be the land which the enemy now occupies and the Arab people now living on it, and struggling to confront and abort Zionist aims and objectives. Arab leaders, who might be in disagreement, have been talking about the pitiable situation the Arab Nation is now living through and calling for an end to side conflicts and for stemming the expansion of the Zionist cancer in 'the body of the Arab Nation'. The Arabs should also unify their actions to confront the Iranian aggression and there is no doubt that the Arab people everywhere would rally to support their leaders' plans if they are really concerted and directed against the common enemies. We have confidence that the Arab leaders and their peoples will eventually rally to support their brothers in need, those now facing a challenge to their existence.

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# Full text of PLO's statement

(Continued from page 4)

representative of the Palestinian people and continues to reject the recognition of the Palestinian rights including the right to self-determination. The U.S. has refused to provide an international guarantee for any solution that might be reached. A careful reading of King Hussein's speech would reveal that the United States has wanted to deceive the Palestinian people into believing that there was a chance for peace in exchange for a PLO response to Washington's request for offering basic concessions.

This has been the basis of disagreement with the United States. The PLO has therefore decided to build a plan for further steadfastness in the face of Washington's stalling and pressure. The steadfastness is the best means for obtaining the required guarantees for creating positive conditions for any solution.

The PLO regrets that the King's speech shifted the blame on the PLO while absolving the U.S. of any blame.

The blame should have been directed to the United States, which has contributed to aborting the joint Jordan-Palestinian moves. Shifting the blame on the PLO is repetition of the situation connected with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian visit to Britain.

In fact, the PLO does not see any reason for defending itself in this respect, but it is useful here to point to what the King's speech clarified about the failure of all previous initiatives which Jordan had earlier undertaken before joining forces with the PLO, in the hope of implementing the 242 resolution or the Rogers initiative or the Geneva Conference resolutions or the Reagan proposal.

In all these instances the failure was due to the lack of United States credibility and Washington's total bias towards the Zionist enemy.

Seventh: All that has been said about the PLO credibility and the claim that it had approved the 242 and 338 resolutions in August 1985, calls for clarification. The PLO had in that period emphasised the need for a total commitment to the Fez Arab resolutions as the basis for any joint Arab, Palestinian and Jordanian moves. The PLO also underlined the inalienable and firm rights of the Palestinian people.

This contradicts with the allegation, that in itself conflicts, with the resolutions of the Casablanca summit which had stressed the fact that the Jordanian-Palestinian efforts based on the Feb. 11, 1985 accord should be based on the Fez resolutions which called for an international conference that would be attended by the two superpowers and the Security Council's permanent members as well as the concerned parties including the PLO for the sake of arriving at a just and durable solution for the Middle East conflict and the Palestine problem.

According to the Casablanca resolutions, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should have held a meeting with Murphy and agreement should have been reached with the Jordanian government on laying an integrated programme that would entail a U.S. recognition of the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination and also political guarantees for the PLO and for holding an international conference in exchange for the PLO's acceptance of 242 and 338 resolutions.

But as is known to all, the meeting with Murphy did not materialise because the United States had backed on its promises to Jordan. How then could the PLO be asked to accept the two resolutions while the U.S. continued to refuse the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination or even the provision of political guarantees for the PLO?

This issue has been at the heart of the dialogue with Jordan, with which the PLO also discussed the proposed meeting with the American envoy. How then could the PLO be blamed for "retreating from its stand" though the PLO had never accepted 242 resolution without being associated with all U.N. resolutions and the right to self-determination as is clear in the Jordan-PLO Accord of Feb. 11 and all PLO declared positions?

The cause of the failure in the talks with Jordan no doubt rests on the U.S., as the U.S. credibility has always been doubtful. The PLO has been truthful and kept its promises to the Palestinian people and did not back from its struggle to achieve the people's rights.

The PLO has not saved any sacrifice in the course of armed struggle and in the quest for a political way that would ensure a just and durable solution. The only and real criterion for its credibility is the commitment to serving the rights of the Palestinian people.

Eighth: As for what has been said

about the mechanism of a solution, and that the PLO does not give priority to the regaining of land, the PLO aims at, first and foremost, the regaining of the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the restoration of the land is no tactical choice, subject to priorities in calculations, but is rather a national objective.

The PLO shoulders the responsibility of achieving these goals side by side with the Palestinian and the Arab people at large and continues to mobilise all efforts on all levels to fulfil that responsibility.

The Palestinian people together with the PLO have been left with the task of shouldering an inherited task of regaining the land which was lost when the PLO was not responsible for it. The PLO will not save any effort in involving Arab brothers and joining in with their efforts to regain the land and the holy places.

If anyone wants evidence and proof about the PLO's struggle, these could be found in the numerous instances of the sacrifices offered through the blood of the Palestinian martyrs. These instances supply a solid proof that the land is the basis for the struggle and that, though it was lost for a little price, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation are willing to liberate it at the greatest expense, through their martyrs.

Ninth: When the suffering of our people under occupation, and when the principle of elevating that suffering are discussed within the context of accepting the fait accompli situation, the pressure of the time element and what is being described as exploiting the available opportunities, the PLO finds itself responsible to clarify some realities which were supposed to be very clear.

The suffering of the Palestinian people should be viewed within a comprehensive, objective and deep perspective. This suffering applies to our people inside the occupied territories and to Palestinians outside the occupied territories.

Those who are under occupation suffer under the yoke of oppression, suppression, the colonisation and confiscation (of the land) and are exposed to attempts to deprive them from their (Palestinian) national identity. Those outside, of the occupied territories suffer from the agony of the diaspora, from persecution and a continuous state of siege.

Therefore, the PLO does not accept any fragmentation of the suffering of the Palestinian people or any dealing with this suffering if it does not address the essence of the cause, namely the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian homeland and the complicated and integrated results of such occupation at all levels.

Thus the PLO, together with the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, believes that the elevation of the suffering of the Palestinian people could only be realised through the restoration of all the inalienable and national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination which constitutes the crux of these rights.

Therefore, without the realisation of these rights, all other proposals that are being suggested are no more than fragmented and temporary solutions which would only complicate and deepen the agony of the Palestinian people and that would legitimise efforts by those responsible (for the suffering of the Palestinian people) to intensify the oppression and the persecution (of the Palestinians) through new forms which will be at the expense of the future, the unity, the land and the holy shrines of the Palestinian people.

Tenth: The PLO views, suggestions that a settlement was eminent, that all of the complex issues of the conflict were resolved and that all what was needed was a positive stand by the PLO, as a form of a cover up on facts and an oversimplification of realities.

In our point of view such suggestions, and accordance to our information about the American and Zionist positions, contradict with the political logic and with accurate and sound calculations of the complex situation in the Middle East.

For despite attempts by some to refer to what has been described as a positive change on the part of the U.S. position, vis-a-vis the Palestinian people, the U.S. still insists on allowing Israel the right to veto any peace ideas or plans which Israel does not find suitable.

The U.S. also insists that it has no plans to pressure Israel to accept any balanced solutions, even at their minimum level, and instead it focuses its pressure on the Palestinian, Jordanian and Arab sides to get them to comply with the Israeli conditions which are based on the balance of the military power in the area and on Israeli arrogance.

The PLO wants also to make clear that the issue of realising peace in the Middle East cannot practically and logically be subject to passing opportunities and oblique suggestions which are not based on solid and clear grounds.

The repeated experiences with the U.S., according to tangible facts and to King Hussein's speech, have always reached a deadlock. U.S. backtracking on previously given promises has become the distinguished feature of the American policies. Therefore, the PLO's insistence on securing a solid basis for a just solution does not reflect a hardened political position nor does it reflect a decision taken at random.

The PLO's position embodies, in its essence and objective, a responsible concern to realise a just and a real peace which guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people away from manoeuvres, conspiracies and political fluctuations.

Stemming from this position, the PLO has submitted three proposals during the last round of talks in Amman, which aimed at pushing the talks in a positive direction in order to achieve a just, durable and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question and of the conflict in the Middle East.

But the three formulas, as we were told by Jordan, were rejected by the American administration.

The PLO affirms, with a principled position, its concern to realise a positive course for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The organisation's stand stems from its national and patriotic commitment and is based on the resolutions of the consecutive PNC sessions and the Palestinian political constants. Its stand also stems from its conviction that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, with its background, dimensions and uniqueness, should not be affected by any passing or incidental fluctuations and changes.

This relationship should respond to the interests of both the Palestinian and Jordanian people opposing pressures and conspiracies which aim at both peoples. And hence is our perception of this strategic relationship which ties the fate of the two peoples.

The PLO bases its movements with Jordan, other Arab and other non-Arab parties on this reality (the strategic relationship between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples) and on its basis the organisation takes its decisions and defines its stands on all issues pertaining to the Palestinian cause and to the Palestinian people's affairs.

Most of the suffering and persecution which the PLO was exposed to so far has been due to its determination to maintain the independence of the Palestinian decision which has always been based on the organisation's commitment and adherence to the Arab national interests.

The organisation has refused before and refuses now any attempts to infringe on the independence of the Palestinian national decision, such attempts which aim at bypassing our national legitimate rights.

In the light of the above-mentioned the PLO stresses the following:-

First: The organisation, stemming from its national responsible position, will continue its determined, adamant and tedious struggle in all of its forms at the heart of which lies the armed struggle to realise the national, legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The achievement of these rights constitutes the basis for a just and durable peace in our area.

Second: The PLO, which expresses pride in the solid stand of our people inside and outside the occupied territories, a stand which reflects our people's commitment to the national rights and their full support for the organisation, pledges to our Palestinian masses and the Arab nation to continue the struggle in all arenas and at all levels.

els.

The PLO's struggle shall not be hindered by the American-Zionist conspiracies, with all of its force and means of pressure, since the PLO derives its strength from the great steadfastness and the determination of the Palestinian people to continue their struggle relentlessly and without any hesitation until our national goal is attained.

Third: The PLO, along with all the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territories, calls upon the Arab nation to rise to its national responsibility towards the central cause — the cause of the Palestine — and to secure all forms of material and logistic support for the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO and for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, since the commitment to the Palestinian cause is essentially an Arab commitment.

Fourth: The PLO, as it continues its struggle on all levels, prides in its alliance with its friends. This alliance, is reflected in the support and commitment by the Socialist countries and its forehead, the Soviet Union, for the Palestinian struggle in the international arena. It also prides in its alliance with the non-aligned countries and the Islamic and African nations. It also notes the positive developments in the stands of several European countries vis-a-vis the Palestinian question.

Therefore, the PLO will continue to bolster and enhance these alliances and to develop their dimensions and their positive impacts on our national struggle.

The PLO, which prides in the solid national Palestinian unity, embodied by our great people everywhere, renews its appeal to all the Palestinian factions to meet within the framework of the PLO to enhance our national unity and to close any loopholes which could be used by the enemies of our people to intrude and tamper with our solid national structure and unity.

## The man whose name was stolen

By Lawrence Neumeister  
The Associated Press

MINEOLA, New York — The lives of Joseph Bertis Randolph Miller and Darrin Giraud crossed only briefly at college five years ago, but police say Giraud learned enough to take over Miller's identity and destroy his reputation.

And in a particularly painful twist, Miller may have to give up his name to straighten things out. As police tell it, Giraud used Miller's name to join the U.S. army and air force, get arrested, run up debts, enter a drug-treatment programme, open checking accounts, get listed as an AIDS patient, rent cars and electronic equipment, and obtain a government social security card, driver's license and credit cards.

Miller, meanwhile, found himself being turned down for jobs and getting mail he couldn't figure out.

And working with military agencies, police and banks to clear his name has been a daunting task, he said.

"The true Mr. Miller has about two years of work to straighten this out, if ever," said Stephen Sadowski, a New York state police spokesman.

Sadowski said the best way for Miller to straighten out his life might be to take a new identity himself.

Giraud, also 25, was arrested in January. He said his life had been mired in foster homes, drug abuse and psychiatric problems.

Fate threw Miller and Giraud into the same dormitory room at the New York State University at New Paltz for three weeks in 1981.

"I thought he was weird," Miller said. "He was super smart. After three weeks, I wanted out."

Miller said the first sign something was amiss came Feb. 16, 1985, when he got a letter saying the school had a request for information about him from a drug rehabilitation programme. He dismissed it as a mistake.

He recalls no other peculiar occurrences until last June, when he was looking for a job. "Every time it got to reference checks, nothing would happen," he said.

With a friend's help, he got work with an aircraft manufacturer.

On Sept. 19, he received a certified letter addressed to Private First Class Joseph B.R. Miller.

It said: "A review of your military personnel records failed to produce a record of your discharge from the service." It warned him to contact authorities or possibly "encounter substantial prejudice in obtaining employment and other benefits."

About the same time, a Bank in Elgin, Illinois, came after him about a debt.

He went to police, who found Giraud in Plattsburgh, New York, his last address as a member of the air force. On Jan. 23, Giraud was arraigned on charges of criminal impersonation, forgery and possessing forged documents.

## Randa Habib's

### Office regulations

IT is no secret that the state of the private-sector employees is getting worse everyday. Salaries are not paid on time, or not paid at all. People are kicked out of their jobs with no valid reasons. Pregnant secretaries are forced to leave their jobs to unmarried secretaries.

The ambiance in most offices is tense as most people do not feel their jobs as being secured. Some companies have circulated very specific rules for its staff. Here is an example taken from one company.

"Work rules:

— "Sickness: No excuse will be acceptable. We will no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof of illness as we believe that if you are able to go to the doctor you are able to come to work.

— "Leave of absence for a surgical operation: We no longer allow this practice. We hired you the way you are and to have anything removed certainly makes you less than we bargained for.

— "Death other than your own: This is no excuse since you can arrange for the funeral to be held late in the afternoon, however we can let you off an hour earlier provided your work for the day was complete.

— "Your own death: This will be accepted as an excuse, but we would like at least two weeks notice as we feel it is your duty to train someone else to take over your job.

— "Quantity of work: No matter how much you produce it would never be enough.

— "Quality of work: The minimum acceptable level is perfection."

Where is all this going to lead, I wonder.

## Peking hospital offers sex changes, facelifts

By Mark O'Neill  
Reuters

PEKING — Peking's plastic surgery hospital, the only one of its kind in China, offers sex changes, facelifts, buttock repair and penis reconstruction.

The hospital's 100 doctors rec-

eive 12,000 patients a year from all over China who need treatment after horrific accidents or congenital deformities, or who want their eyelids raised or their sex changed.

"A distraught 20-year-old girl came here with a cleft palate, convinced she would never be able to

marry," hospital director Song Ruyao told Reuters.

"She told her mother that she should have choked her at birth. But we corrected the deformity, gave her a lot of encouragement and now she is happily married with children."

The 300-bed unit can accept

only one in every 100 applicants who come in person or send a letter with a photograph of their affliction.

Doctors replace missing fingers with toes, rebuild noses and buttocks with other parts of the body, graft skin on firework burns and reconstruct penises.

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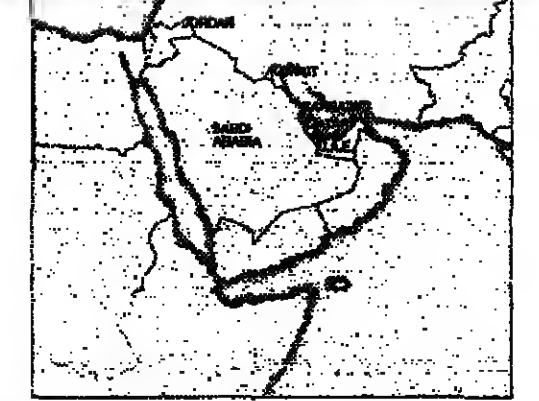
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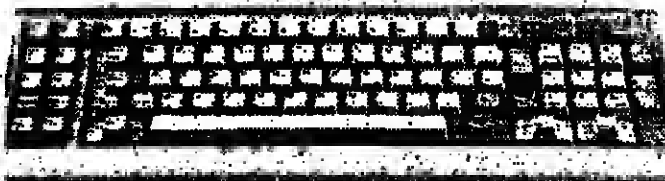
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## West Ham sends United crashing out of F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — English Football Association (F.A.) Cup holders Manchester United were relieved of the trophy they won against Everton last May when they were beaten 2-0 at home by West Ham Sunday.

A thunderous header in the first half by midfielder Geoff Pike and a second-half penalty, driven home by Scottish international full-back Ray Stewart, gave the Londoners a thoroughly deserved if surprising win in their fifth round replay at Old Trafford.

The sides drew 1-1 in their first meeting at West Ham's Upton Park ground on Wednesday when Manchester United and England captain Bryan Robson dislocated a shoulder. West Ham's win Sunday earned them a quarter-final tie away to Sheffield Wednesday on Tuesday.

Both West Ham and Sheffield Wednesday will therefore appear in the semi-final draw Monday along with Southampton, who won 2-0 at Brighton Saturday in the only completed quarter-final. Everton and Luton, who drew 2-2 Saturday and replay on Wednesday, and Liverpool and Watford.

Manchester United launched a ferocious opening onslaught on the West Ham goal Sunday, but found veteran goalkeeper Phil Parkes and the defence, well marshalled by England stopper Alvin Martin, in a highly-defiant mood.

Parkes was forced to make several fine saves, notably with his legs from Colin Gibson in the seventh minute and a diving block from Mark Hughes early in the second half.

But West Ham did more than resist pressure and their opening goal in the 18th minute was a

well-placed header of formidable power by Pike. He met Mark Ward's right-wing corner with perfect timing to leave the United defence helpless.

The Manchester side were never able to control play with their usual authority and were already looking disgruntled with themselves when Irish striker Frank Stapleton conceded the penalty with a charge into the back of Alvin Martin.

Stewart powered the ball past Chris Turner from the spot to leave United, missing the inspirational qualities of Robson in midfield, two goals behind and, although they fought spiritedly to recover, well-beaten.

West Ham almost made it three in the closing minutes when Scottish striker Frank McAvennie hit the post.

The win was West Ham's first over United in the F.A. Cup since 1964 and came with a good omen — every time the teams have met in the competition since 1945, the winners have gone on to win the cup itself at Wembley.

## Roma misses chance as Juve draws

ROME (R) — A second-half goal by defender Sergio Brio saved Juventus Sunday from their second defeat this season by Napoli and gave them a commanding five-point lead over Roma at the top of the Italian First Division.

Argentine Diego Maradona, whose goal last November brought Juventus their only league defeat to date this season, did the damage again Sunday with a searing 34th minute header at the Stadio Comunale.

Luciano Favero deflected the ball into his own net over goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi with Brio vainly trying to clear the ball off the line.

Eight minutes after the interval, however, Brio was in action at the other end where he powered

home Juventus' equaliser to earn them a share of the spoils in a hard-fought game watched by a crowd of 50,000.

Second-placed Roma were twice ahead at Verona through striker Roberto Pruzzo, the second of his goals a dazzling left-foot volley from a cross by Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek which made him Italy's leading scorer with 15 goals.

But Antonio Di Gennaro equalised for Verona in the first half and Giuseppe Galderisi in the second with a penalty before West German Hans-Peter Briegel hit a hotly-contested winner for Verona in the last minute.

At one stage, Roma looked to be closing the gap on Juventus to two points but Briegel's late win-

ner left them disappointed and in desperate need of a convincing win when they entertain the league leaders in Rome next Sunday.

Internazionale Milan, emerging from a spell of inconsistency, built on their midweek UEFA Cup win over Nantes of France by beating Fiorentina 2-0. Striker Sandro Altobelli scored both goals to remind national team manager Enzo Bearzot of his claims to a place in Mexico.

England striker Mark Hateley, returning to action after having his tonsils removed, underlined his claims for a place in his country's World Cup squad with a 43rd minute goal, from a pass by compatriot Ray Wilkins, which gave AC Milan two points against struggling Pisa.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Australia stops N. Zealand in Davis Cup

AUCKLAND (R) — Australia had an easy passage to the second round of the world group Davis Cup Sunday, beating New Zealand 4-1. They now face Britain away in July. The promising start made by New Zealand on Friday when they ended the day all square after the opening singles proved a false omen. Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald teamed up to win the doubles in straight sets Saturday from Russell Simpson and Kelly Evernden and Sunday the consistent Peter McNamara clinched the tie for Australia, beating Evernden 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. With the tie dead, Chris Lewis and Paul McNamee played the final game over the best of three sets and McNamee made up for his first day loss to Evernden by winning 6-4, 6-4.

### Frank Williams hurt in car accident

MARSEILLES, France (R) — Formula One car constructor Frank Williams was in hospital here Sunday after suffering a fractured spine in a motor racing accident Saturday in southern France, hospital sources said. Williams, a Briton whose team are contenders for the Formula One racing world championship title, was seriously injured when his car overturned in a field, according to police at Meunès-Les-Montrieux near Toulon. Police said he apparently lost control of the vehicle while rounding a curve on the road near the Paul Ricard Track at Castellet. Hospital officials declined to give a report on his condition.

### Moutinho easily wins Portuguese rally

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Portugal's Joaquim Moutinho cruised to a comfortable win in the Portuguese Motor Rally, finishing with a 13-minute lead in a race marred by the death of two spectators and a boycott by top drivers. Moutinho, driving a Renault 5 Turbo and making full use of his knowledge of the local roads, maintained his domination of the depleted field in the fourth and final stage which ended in the Estoril Autodrome near Lisbon Saturday night.

## Coe avenges earlier defeat, sets his sights on summer

COSFORD, England (AP) — After conquering another world, Sebastian Coe is about to set his sights on more familiar ground.

Coe charged past teammate David Lewis a half-lap from the wire and went on to score a fairly easy victory in the 3,000 metres Saturday, one of the few English victories in the annual indoor meet with the United States.

The triumph, at 7 minutes, 54.32 seconds the fastest 3,000 ever for Coe, took some of the sting out of his loss to Lewis over the same distance at British Indoor Championships last month.

"All I can say is, I'm five weeks fitter now," said Coe, who has been training outdoors in Spain.

Next will come "serious endurance work" in preparation for this summer's Commonwealth Games and European Championships, Coe said. He may go in the 5,000 metres in both of those events.

But for the long term, he continued, he'll probably concentrate on the distance for which he is best known — the 1,500, where he has won Olympic gold medals twice in a row.

"The 1,500 seems to be my

race," Coe said.

Coe drew the loudest cheers from the sellout crowd of 5,000 at the Cosford Royal Air Force Base arena. Any cheers for the home team were long in coming, as the U.S. team, made up mostly of second-line international performers, shot to an early lead and posted an 83-67 victory in the fifth annual meet.

Clarence Daniel, filling in for last-minute scratches Antonio McKay and Walter McCoy, set track and United Kingdom all — corners records of 46.52 in the 400.

The U.S. victories ended in another event where a top American performer was missing.

David McFadden won the triple jump with a leap of 16.42 metres. Charlie Simpkins, holder of the world indoor best in the event for a time this winter, was a last-minute defection from the U.S. squad.

"I've been associated with a lot of American teams and I've never seen a greater spirit or greater effort by a group of so-called has-beens," U.S. coach Stan Wright said.

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## Egypt hopes to avoid elimination

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuter

CAIRO — Egypt, after a shock 1-0 defeat by Senegal on Friday, are expected to strengthen their front line in their last-chance African Nations' Football Cup match against a confident Ivory Coast team in Cairo Monday.

Trainer Mohammad Al Sayed Sadik told reporters Egypt was prepared to deal with any Ivorian attempts to force a draw by opening up the game and shooting more from outside the box.

"We'll probably change the line-up to increase offensive pressure and exploit the wings," he added.

In the Senegal match, the first in an "A" group which also includes Mozambique, Egypt played without fulltime wingers. Tarek Yahia, who came on for the last 15 minutes, and Mustafa Abdou are prime candidates to fill those slots Monday.

Commentators Sunday picked out Senegal and Ivory Coast, group table leader after their 3-0 victory over newcomers Mozambique, as the teams most likely to reach the next stage, but few ruled out Egypt completely if they

overcame a jinx on scoring. The two leading Group A teams will meet the best of Algeria, Cameroun, Morocco and Zambia in the semi-finals in Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria on March 17.

The Ivorians, perhaps the most highly motivated squad because of domestic pressure for a victory, have also promised to play an aggressive game Monday. "We always attack, to score as many goals as possible," coach Pancho Gonzales said.

The Franco-Argentine trainer added that the Egypt match would be their most difficult, though "our good result against Mozambique will certainly be an incentive."

He said he was particularly impressed by Taher Abu Zeid, the Egyptian forward who troubled Senegalese keeper Cheikh Seck most on Friday until he went off with a bad cut on the back of the head and a sprained thigh.

Ahu Zeid told reporters Saturday the injuries were superficial and he had every hope of playing Monday.

Sadik said the Ivorian Elephants, with nimble and accurate strikers in Pascal N'Dri and Abd-

oulaye Traore and a dazzling winger in professional Youssouf Fofana, were not to be dismissed lightly.

"They're strong. They scored three clean goals on Friday and could have scored at least as many others if they had taken their chances," he said.

Commentators have already judged the Senegal-Mozambique contest Monday a foregone conclusion after the scrappy performance by Mozambique against Ivory Coast.

Mozambique, taking part for the first time in a contest at this level, rarely came within striking distance of Elephant keeper Gballe Zagoli while their defence had rings run round them by the Ivorian front line.

Senegal has the advantage of at least five European-based professionals, including Jules Bocande, currently France's leading goalscorer, and Omar Sene, another striker with runaway French First Division side Paris Saint Germain.

What at first looked like excessive Senegalese caution against Egypt later turned out to be careful planning, commentators said.

## Morocco fears Cameroun's speed

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuter

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Morocco must try to dictate the pace and rob Cameroun of their edge in speed when the sides meet on Tuesday in the African Nations' Cup final series.

"They are physically strong and

very fast and we cannot match them for speed," Moroccan coach Jose Faria said Sunday.

"What we will do is that when (goalkeeper Badou) Zaki is in possession he will give the ball to the nearest defender who in turn will pass it to a midfielder — then we attack."

"Zaki will not kick goalwards and have our players go chasing it against the fast Camerounians. We will not allow them to have their fast game prevail and we shall use wingers to penetrate their defence," the Brazilian Faria told Reuters.

Faria, nicknamed "La Baraka" (Mr. Lucky) by Moroccan fans for his recent successes, said Cameroun were now Morocco's main hurdle on the way to the semi-finals on March 17.

"If we win on Tuesday, we can go on and beat Zambia, who will likely be demoralised by a defeat by Algeria," he said. Algeria and Morocco played to a goalless draw here Saturday night.

Cameroun, who had an impressive run in the 1982 World Cup finals, grabbed a dramatic 3-2 win against Zambia Saturday in a match which will be hard to follow for excitement.

Morocco-Algeria, a clash widely expected to be a thriller, was something of an anti-climax. Except for brief flashes of brilliance by Morocco's Swiss exile Aziz Bouderbala, it was fought out in mid-field.

"I am happy with the draw and I think the Algerian coach (Rabah Saadani) is just as happy," Faria said.

He said his side was negatively affected by the absence of key players Timoumi, Hidamoni and Dahane, left at home because of injury.

"Mustapha Haddaoui (of Swiss club Lausanne) and Boudierbala felt lonely out there without them. If they were all there, they would

have played a symphony on the Algerians," he said.

The Algerians probably had similar sentiments. They were without their 1982 World Cup veterans Rabah Nadjer of Portuguese club Porto and Tedja Bensoula of French club side Le Havre.

They arrived Saturday night and will be available for the clash against Zambia here on Tuesday. While the balance is clearly tipped in Algeria's favour in the clash with Zambia, holders Cameroun are in no mood to make an early exit from this eight-nation tournament after their initial success.

"The Moroccans will need maximum points from us on Tuesday and that will make them nervous. We will be relaxed and will go for a win," coach Claude Le Roi told Reuters.

Cameroun showed weakness in defence Saturday and survived an early onslaught by the Zambians, who unleashed a series of ferocious drives and headers which goalkeeper Thomas Nkono needed all his experience and perception to parry immaculately.

"Our defence tactics just evaporated in the first 20 minutes but we were able to correct this in the second half," said Le Roi, a 38-year-old former French professional.

Cameroun are likely to be without French-based midfielder Teophile Abega against Morocco. He limped off the pitch in the second half Saturday and Le Roi said he had a knee injury.

Start striker Roger Milla collected his first yellow card Saturday and to judge by his conduct appears likely to collect another before the two-week championship is over.

The French Stienne club player spent considerable time arguing with referee Idris Mazawi of Mali, and at one point had an off-the-ball brawl with the Zambians.

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## Machinists escalate TWA strike

NEW YORK (R) — The strike by flight attendants against Trans World Airlines (TWA) escalated sharply Sunday as machinists at major airports across the nation refused to cross picket lines.

The International Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) said TWA operations had been brought to a halt at Kennedy, La Guardia and Newark airports, all serving the New York area, as well as airports in Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City.

IFFA spokeswoman, Ms. Karen Eitelberg, said that in addition, ground crews in London, Rome, Paris and Tel Aviv were honouring the strike by refusing to refuel TWA planes.

She said more than 20 aircraft were stranded in Europe.

The IFFA claimed its biggest victory in the two-day strike Sunday when the 2,400 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Kansas City refused to cross picket lines and closed down TWA's main service and maintenance depot.

"Without servicing, TWA cannot put their planes in the air," Ms. Eitelberg told Reuters.

TWA later denied that the facility was closed.

The strike by 6,000 attendants began at midnight on Friday when TWA and the IFFA failed to reach an agreement on wage and benefit concessions.

TWA Chairman Carl Icahn said he had asked the attendants to accept a 22 per cent wage cut as part of a stringent economy plan to save the airline. The attendants claim that Mr. Icahn was really asking for a 45 per cent reduction.

TWA spokesman, Ms. Sally McElwreath, earlier said that the company was experiencing difficulty at its Kansas City depot. "Apparently the maintenance facility at Kansas City had a large number of people who did not show up for work or joined the picket lines," she said.

The action would have no immediate effect on the airline, she said. "It is not going to ground the airline immediately. The facility is used for long-term maintenance rather than day-to-day maintenance," she said.

Later, TWA spokesman, Mr. Larry Hilyard, said the company "emphatically denied" that the facility was closed. "Just because people decide not to cross the pic-

ket line does not mean the facility is closed," he said.

He also denied that TWA operations at Kennedy and Chicago airports had been halted.

"We had 85 per cent of our machinists turn up for work at Kennedy, and 180 out of 181 machinists turned up at Chicago. IFFA must be having flights of fancy," he said.

Ms. McElwreath said TWA flew 52 per cent of its scheduled flights Saturday and planned to bring 25 more planes back into service on Monday, including two international flights from Boston to Paris and Rome.

"We intend to bring 25 aircraft back into operation on Monday, another 50 on Tuesday, with substantial additions on Wednesday and Thursday to bring our operation up to 100 per cent by Friday," Ms. McElwreath told Reuters.

The IFFA said that TWA's target was unachievable.

"The only way the company can return to full operating conditions is with our cooperation. And that means signing a contract with the union. As long as this strike continues the company cannot resume full service," IFFA spokeswoman, Ms. Cynthia Def-

igueiredo said.

Ms. Defigueiredo also said that some of the 1,500 attendants trained by TWA to replace the strikers were refusing to cross the picket lines and were even joining them.

She refused to say how many replacement attendants had joined the strikers. "We want TWA to get a nasty surprise," she said.

Federal Judge Howard Sachs Saturday denied a temporary restraining order sought by TWA in Kansas City to keep the machinists from honouring the attendants' picket lines.

A further hearing was scheduled for Monday.

Mr. Icahn took over TWA early this year after a nine-month struggle and won concessions from the pilots and the machinists.

The pilots accepted a 25 per cent wage cut and agreed to cross picket lines of other unions.

The machinists agreed to 15 per cent cuts but refused not to cross the picket lines.

Mr. Icahn said the concessions were needed to cut TWA's losses, which last year hit \$193 million. The airline was expected to lose \$125 million dollars in the first quarter this year.

## Gulf Arab countries say oil prices have fallen to unacceptable levels

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies said Sunday oil prices had fallen to unacceptable levels and only cooperation between all producers, within and outside OPEC, could change this.

In a statement issued after a five-hour session of Gulf Cooperation Council oil ministers here, they said the oil market "had deteriorated to an unacceptable level that we hope will convince all of the importance of cooperation."

Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain met to coordinate policy ahead of a conference of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) next Sunday in Geneva.

Their combined oil output is close to 7.5 million barrels per day. Only Oman and Bahrain do not belong to the 13-nation OPEC.

"The current situation is harmful to producers inside and outside OPEC and also to consumers in the short and long-term, so we need to bring together all the efforts of producers inside and outside OPEC," the statement said.

"It is difficult, if not impossible, for a group — whether the Gulf Cooperation Council, OPEC or any other body — to stop the deterioration."

There was no sign that the countries were wavering in their support for a policy agreed by OPEC last December, under which it abandoned an output ceiling of 16 million barrels per day (b/d) to go for an undefined "fair share" of the oil market.

The policy switch followed abandonment of official OPEC prices last September by Saudi Arabia, the last member of the cartel to do so.

Saudi Arabia and the others say publicly that output restraint will only work if all oil producers participate, and have singled out Britain and Norway for particular attention.

The two North Sea exporters are not expected to be at a meeting between non-OPEC and OPEC producers in Geneva on March 19. Oman, Egypt, Malaysia, Brunei and Mexico are among the non-OPEC producers likely to attend.

The Gulf Arab states have been blamed by OPEC hard-liners, such as Algeria, Iran and Libya, for causing the market collapse in which prices have dropped by 50 per cent or more.

These states have called for sharp short-term production cuts to prop up prices, and a return to a general policy of output restraint.

The Gulf ministers, who referred in their statement to a 1982 meeting in which they warned of a fall in prices caused by overproduction in the North Sea and inside OPEC, called for "responsibility from all and the avoidance of distortions of facts."

IEA estimates slight decline in OPEC output

Meanwhile, the International

Energy Agency (IEA) estimated Sunday that OPEC crude oil production will average nearly a million b/d less in the first three months of this year than in the last quarters of 1985.

It said total OPEC output would slip to an average 16.8 million b/d in January-March compared with 17.6 million b/d in the previous quarter.

The IEA figures showed slight production declines in Libya and Iraq and sharper falls in Iran and Nigeria. But analysts said the cutbacks by Iran and Libya were the only ones with an apparent political motive, while the Iraqi and Nigerian production cuts could have been due to lengthy discussions on price formulae with potential lifters.

The cuts of 300,000 b/d by Iran and 100,000 b/d by Libya may reflect this strategy.

The IEA sees output in Saudi Arabia, the largest OPEC exporter, rising to 4.3 million b/d from 4.2 million in the last 1985 quarter, and the United Arab Emirates and Qatar also producing 100,000 b/d more apiece.

Oil consumption in the 24 main industrial countries of the Org-

anisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which fell by 1.7 per cent to 34 million b/d in 1985, is expected to rise slightly to 34.3 million in 1986, assuming prices stay around February's levels.

"Projections of OECD oil consumption in 1986 have been revised upwards, taking into account recent reductions in crude oil and product prices," the report said.

The rise in oil use was likely to be concentrated in the last three quarters of 1986 because of the time needed for crude oil price falls to be passed through to product prices. In the first quarter a drop in consumption of around one per cent was expected.

The report said preliminary estimates indicated company stocks would be reduced by 1.3 million b/d in the first quarter of 1986, in line with normal seasonal trends.

Total stocks on land in the non-communist industrial countries were projected to be around 406 million tonnes, or 99 days' consumption, on April 1.

"Company stocks have been drawn down almost continuously during the past five years and are now lower than at any other date since 1974," the report said.

The following table, compiled from International Energy Agency (IEA) figures, shows how OPEC (All figures in millions of barrels per day).

|              | 1984 | 1985 | 1q 85 | 2nd  | 3rd  | 4th  | 1q 86 |
|--------------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Saudi Arabia | 4.4  | 3.2  | 3.7   | 2.7  | 2.4  | 4.2  | 4.3   |
| Iran         | 2.2  | 2.2  | 2.0   | 2.3  | 2.3  | 2.3  | 2.0   |
| Iraq         | 1.2  | 1.4  | 1.3   | 1.3  | 1.4  | 1.7  | 1.6   |
| UAE          | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.1   | 1.1  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.3   |
| Kuwait       | 0.9  | 0.9  | 0.9   | 0.8  | 0.9  | 0.9  | 0.9   |
| Neutral zone | 0.4  | 0.4  | 0.4   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.4  | 0.3   |
| Qatar        | 0.4  | 0.3  | 0.3   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.4   |
| Nigeria      | 1.4  | 1.5  | 1.6   | 1.4  | 1.3  | 1.7  | 1.2   |
| Libya        | 1.1  | 1.0  | 1.0   | 1.0  | 1.1  | 1.1  | 1.0   |
| Algeria      | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.6   | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.6   |
| Gabon        | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2   | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2   |
| Venezuela    | 1.7  | 1.6  | 1.6   | 1.5  | 1.5  | 1.6  | 1.6   |
| Ecuador      | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3   |
| Indonesia    | 1.3  | 1.2  | 1.2   | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.2   |
| Total        | 17.2 | 15.9 | 16.2  | 14.9 | 14.9 | 17.6 | 16.8  |

output has varied since 1984, with figures for each quarter since the start of 1985.

## Price instability hits countertrade expansion

LONDON — A sudden fall in world oil prices, the collapse of numerous proposed deals, and severe financial reverses for several trading companies, have come as a jolt to the business of countertrading.

The world trading phenomenon of recent years, countertrade has owed its success and its growth to the world economic crisis, and the different ways in which it has affected both rich and poor countries.

The industrial nations of the West have been keen to sell their products to keep factories fully occupied but have found their traditional customers unable to raise the necessary hard cash.

Those countries have been equally anxious to acquire Western goods in many cases in order to modernise their own industries. The answer has been to exchange — resources, such as oil, or relatively low technology products one way, industrial and consumer goods the other.

This growth has been checked, however, by the difficulties encountered by some of the best-known practitioners of countertrade.

Nowhere was this more sharply underlined than in Austria where, in recent months, Intertrading, a unit of the Voest-Alpine steel group, and Mex, a trading unit of Chemie Linz, have suffered heavy losses in connection with oil barter deals with Iran.

In Nigeria, which emerged a few years ago as Africa's most aggressive user of countertrade, largely based on oil resources, numerous deals have been cancelled or suspended as unworkable. For a time, the country's countertrade policy was put into abeyance and only more recently has it been cautiously reactivated.

Just as the oil price rises of the 1970s sparked the recession and gave impetus to the growth in barter, the sudden and sharp price fall is prompting widespread concern that oil may no longer be invulnerable as a tool in countertrade.

This unexpected reversal of fortune for oil barter specialists stems from the decision by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members last year to end the two-tiered price system — the so-called OPEC official price which was deemed artificially high, and the real, spot market price.

With this has come the end of the oil production quotas, the existence of which through last year caused many producers to conclude billions of dollars in barter deals to circumvent their own self-imposed restraints.

The resulting unpredictability of prices is now imperilling the oil barter market in a way which does not affect other commodity deals where prices, while low, are far more easy to predict.

Yet, while the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other opponents of

countertrade can take satisfaction that some of the dynamism has gone out of the practice, the fact remains that its growth potential is strong.

It is abetted by the halting recovery of the Western economies, lack of a cohesive programme to resolve the Third World debt crises, and the weakness of the non-oil commodities, many of which are the sole items of trade for developing countries.

In recent months, Malaysia, advised by Barclays Bank of the U.K., has formed up a national countertrade policy.

Pakistan, which has long countenanced bartering on an unofficial basis, is commissioning several Western trading companies to use countertrade specifically to improve the quality and balance of its trade.

Greece, with the support of its banking community, has set up an organisation to handle countertrade.

In some South American countries, such as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil, an increasing number of state or large private companies are using reciprocity as a lever when concluding deals with foreign suppliers.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Turkey, where a long saga surrounding the supply of \$4.2 billion in F-16 fighter aircraft by General Dynamics of the U.S. continues. U.S. trade officials believe the deal will be worth \$5 billion, of which \$2 billion is likely to be offset by trade.

The sophistication with which countertrade is being practised suggests that it has been far more prevalent in the post-war trading system than has so far been admitted or recognised.

The countertrade involvement of the U.S. — nominally an opponent — was underlined in a recent International Trade Commission report.

The report said that in 1984 alone some \$7.1 billion in sales agreements involved countertrade, of which military-related offsets amounted to \$5.8 billion.

The countertrade obligations incurred as a result of those deals required U.S. companies to handle some \$2.7 billion in transactions for their customers.

Political concern has been voiced in Washington about the offsets, and the loss of U.S. technical leadership through technology transfer abroad, and this has prompted a series of hearings by the House banking sub-committee.

The evidence given, however, sought to allay fears on this.

Mr. James Blaker, the deputy assistant defence secretary, told the committee that the offset programme was important in that it gave U.S. alliance partners a capacity for self defence and helped create a multinational defence force.

Technology transfer was not such that the U.S. defence base had been eroded, he said.

The committee was reminded at various times that U.S. multinationals, particularly in the aerospace field, employed teams of people whose role was to purchase goods from overseas customers. Indeed, it was the U.S. offset programme, begun in the early 1950s, which provided the basis for its subsequent handling of countertrade.

Mr. Joel Johnson, a vice-president of the American League for Exports and Security Assistance, sought to discourage Washington's involvement in setting policy for his group's members, which include the big aerospace concerns. While cash-for-goods was desirable, American companies had to be competitive.

Any effort to allay the use of countertrade would have to be done on a multilateral basis, and not be just a unilateral attempt to "fix" something the U.S. deemed was wrong. He added that information about offset was sensitive and any government mis-handling of it "would wet the appetites of foreign customers for even more."

One of the main hurdles the system still has to overcome, however, is the continued opposition of the international economic establishment.

In a report issued last year, the OECD found that countertrade accounted for just five per cent of world trade, that is about \$80 billion. While the figure is generally conceded as far too modest by many trading organisations, the OECD concedes that the practice has grown sharply.

It notes that, from the company point of view, the use of countertrade, or more simply reciprocal trading, to help win an export order, has its appeal. The OECD, nevertheless, sees dangers to the world trading system

from too widespread a growth in the practice.

GATT's case, too, is that bilateralism distorts the normal growth of trade and that it often perpetuates inefficiencies in a specific nation's trading industries.

Even worse, it excludes non-participating countries from expanding their trade and often locks countries into long-term and disadvantageous trading patterns, as is common within Comecon or among certain Western nations, such as Finland, which trade heavily with the Comecon bloc.

"Substituting discriminatory, bureaucratic decision-making for the impersonal workings of market forces may buy some peace in the short run, but only at a heavy cost in terms of its impact on the medium-term prospects for friendly commercial and political relations," says the GATT report.

The long-term professionals in the business privately agree with the GATT's concern. But they point out that countertrade will not go away as long as there is a debt crisis and as long as a vast part of the world is devoted to centralised planning with all the associated problems of lack of convertible currencies.

As a British trade department official recently told a trade seminar, it was perilous to be too cautious about so-called pure trade. Was not money itself a volatile commodity? he asked. And were not the money merchants responsible for much of the Third World debt problem?

"Now they find the costs of repayment or refinancing seriously affected by demands for this commodity outside their control — such as the U.S. budget deficit."

"The purveyors of money have a selling job to do in many parts of the world today," he said. "There is a confidence gap to be made up."

— Financial Times news feature.

## Saudi Arabia may further cut spending

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia announces a budget Monday that coming in the midst of a world oil crisis will inevitably include further cuts in government spending, bankers and diplomats in the Gulf said.

The world's largest oil exporter has seen its output drop from a peak in 1980 of close to 10 million barrels per day (b/d) to a 20-year low of two million last summer.

Since then it has managed to raise production to above four million b/d, but as a result oil prices have dropped by almost 50 per cent because of a worldwide surplus.

Government revenues have tumbled. In the financial year which ends Monday, its income is likely to have been a mere 40 per cent of the 368 billion riyals (then \$107 billion) it spent four years ago.

This has forced it to slash spe-

nding. "This year will continue the trend established in recent years of smaller and smaller budgets," said one Western diplomat. "But it's not clear how low they will go."

Many believe further cuts of 10 to 15 per cent are likely.

The government says much of the country's infrastructure is complete and it has no need now to spend money on big civilian undertakings.

Nonetheless, many projects have been cancelled or put on ice, leading to a huge downturn in the construction industry, and there is no reason to expect that to change. As projects started in the boom years are completed, government spending can run down.

Subsidies on items such as wheat production have been cut, and charges by government-run utilities have been raised.

The current year's balanced-

budget projection of 200 billion riyals (\$54.8 billion), is based on oil output of 3.85 million b/d and a price of \$28 a barrel.

Neither target has been met, with output barely exceeding 3.5 million b/d and prices now below \$15 a barrel.

The government will probably have underspent this year on its projections, to preserve a balanced budget which it has said it plans until 1990.

The 1985-86 budget followed two years in which Saudi Arabia dug deep into foreign reserves to finance budget deficits.

Even defence, which accounted for 32 per cent of this year's budget allocations and is the last area where the government is still spending heavily abroad, is unlikely to escape cutbacks.

Diplomats said that while the Saudis saw their oil revenues slump and a fall in the value of the dollar, in which those revenues are

denominated, the financial news has not been all bad for the Saudi government.

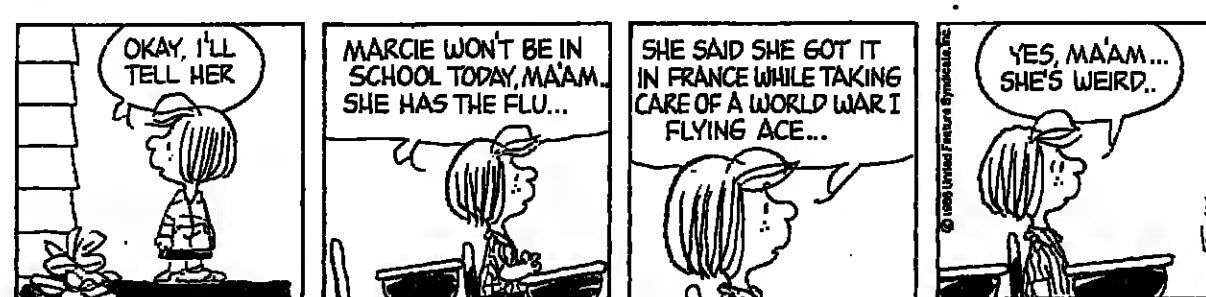
They said the falling dollar will have swollen the size of the country's non-dollar assets, and a realisation of these gains as income may have allowed the government to keep its budget balanced without shrinking the reserves.

They said that in the early 1980s, the Saudis concentrated on liquidating dollar assets when they drew down on foreign reserves, a move which now seems to be paying dividends.

Many bankers also believe a key part to the Saudi budget policy will be devaluations of the riyal. By doing this, the government can swell its local currency revenues from oil.

Devaluation speculation led to a weakening of the riyal in Gulf markets Sunday to 3.6550/60 to the dollar, compared with its government-set parity of 3.6500.

### Peanuts



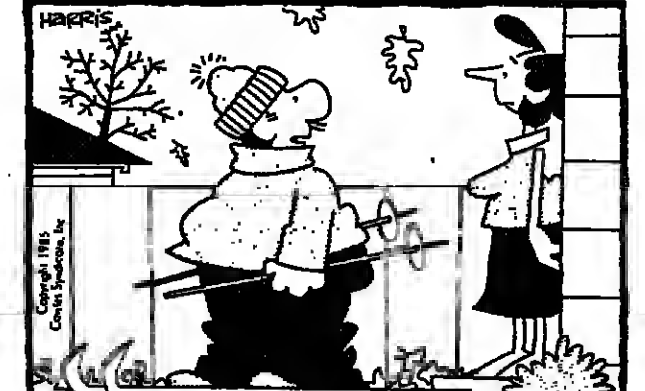
### Mutt 'n' Jeff



### Andy Capp

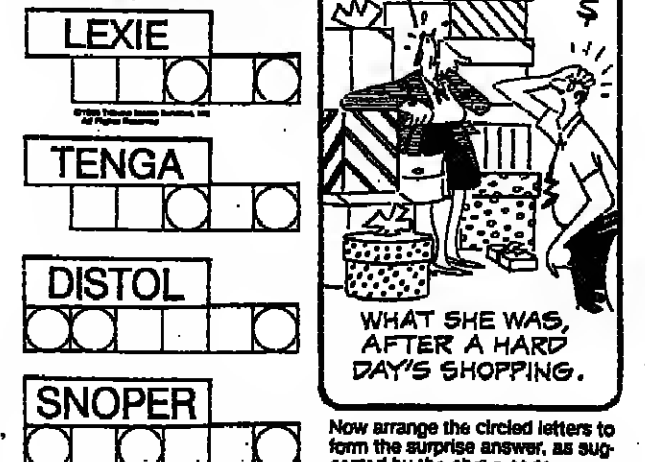


### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: LEXIE & "TENGA" (Answers tomorrow)  
Yesterday's Jumble: TRIPE BAGGY LAWYER BISHOP  
Answer: What today's hangover might be connected with—THE WRATH OF GRAPES

## Developing nations call for liberalising textile trade

BEIJING (AP) — Representatives from 23 developing countries and regions demanded Saturday that developed countries eliminate all forms of discriminatory restrictions on textile trade, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

They news agency quoted the head of the Indian delegation, Mr. J. K. Bagchi, as saying that discriminatory and restrictive measures taken by developed countries against imports of textiles and clothing from developing countries have caused great difficulty for India's foreign trade.

## Horoscope and Crosswords not received



# Museveni fighters seize strategic Ugandan town

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda's National Resistance Army (NRA) said Sunday it had seized the strategic northern town of Gulu, stronghold of former government troops who had vowed to defend the area to the last man.

The Defence Ministry said in a press statement that the NRA, which took power in Kampala in late January, captured Gulu at six O'clock (1500 GMT) Saturday evening. It gave no indication of casualties.

The reported capture of Gulu gives the NRA control over almost the entire country.

Gulu was the stronghold of former army commander Lt. Gen. Bazilio Okello. He was quoted as saying last month that he would take his revenge on the NRA and "crush them because they are traitors."

The NRA now controls all of southern and central Uganda and

much of the north, but have not yet seized Kitgum, towards the Sudanese border, or Arua, north western home of former dictator Idi Amin.

The terse Defence Ministry statement said the NRA seized Gulu, about 320 kilometres north of Kampala, after three hours of heavy fighting.

"This is a strategic victory for the NRA. The struggle continues," it added.

The NRA, who consist mainly of Bantu southerners, have encountered relatively little resistance as they have moved north despite a long history of bitter rivalry between them and the Nilotic

northerners. Kampala residents say northerners have little to fear from the NRA because they are well-disciplined, in strong contrast to other armed factions notorious for their brutality.

Uganda's new president and NRA leader Yoweri Museveni has vowed to make reconciliation between north and south a top priority, and sent emissaries to Arua last month in an attempt to reach a peace agreement with members of the former government army.

Meanwhile in Jeddah, former Ugandan President Idi Amin was Sunday quoted as saying he was unconcerned by the possibility Uganda's new leaders might seek to extradite him.

"I am not afraid. Nobody will even consider this request," he told the Saudi Gazette newspaper in an interview.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mukibi said in Geneva last week the new government was seeking a United Nations investigation of whether earlier rulers including Amin were guilty of genocide.

Amin, who has lived in Saudi Arabia since shortly after his overthrow in 1979, said he had done nothing to harm the interests of Uganda or Islam.

"I am in a strong position in Uganda," he said. "Uganda needs a strong leader like me, but I don't want to be president."

"I am a committed and pious Muslim," he said, adding his only ambition was to be a more devoted Muslim and to see Uganda united.

The time for recrimination had passed, and Ugandans should work for the unity of the country, the newspaper quoted him as saying.

## Anglicans to debate women clergy

TORONTO, Canada (R) — Leaders of the world's 65 million Anglicans meet in Canada this week to discuss the divisive question of women priests and moves for reconciliation with the Roman Catholic Church.

The meeting on Wednesday, which brings together archbishops of the 28 Anglican Churches every three years, will be chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, who was cautiously supported the idea of women priests in his Church of England.

Women have been ordained priests in the three-million strong U.S. Episcopal Church and the one-million strong Anglican Church of Canada for nearly 10 years.

The only other Anglican Churches with women priests are in Hong Kong and Uganda, although there is continuing debate in England, Scotland, Australia and South Africa, among others.

A declaration last year by 112 U.S. bishops favouring admission of women to their ranks has put female clergy on the primates' agenda as the most closely watched topic.

Edmond Browning, the new

Episcopal presiding bishop, told Reuters of the American Church's "overwhelming support for women in the ministry" and he expected U.S. Episcopalians, who have more than 500 women priests out of a total of some 13,000, would eventually name a woman bishop.

But some traditionalists, including Bishop of London Graham Leonard, have voiced strenuous objections.

Leonard, the third-highest English prelate and a leader of the Anglo-Catholic faction that stresses Anglicans' roots with Roman Catholics and members of the Eastern Orthodox faith, warned that naming a woman bishop could cause a split.

A recent Gallup poll said 20 per cent of American Episcopalians still oppose women clergy. About 20,000 members broke away from the U.S. church after women were admitted to the priesthood, to form several splinter groups.

Ironically, Leonard is due to deliver the keynote address at an international conference of traditionalist priests and bishops in Fairfield, Connecticut, beginning on Monday.

A sponsor said it was "dumb

luck" that the traditionalist session would occur just before the opening of the Toronto meeting, where another focus is expected to be efforts to heal the 450-year-old split between Rome and Canterbury.

A new element was added last week in London when Roman Catholic and Anglican bishops working for unity said Anglican moves for women priests presented a "fresh and grave obstacle to reconciliation."

At the same time, they released a letter from Dutch Cardinal Johannes Willebrand saying the Vatican might be willing to recognise the validity of the Anglican priesthood if Anglicans officially adopted doctrinal statements on the ordained ministry and the eucharist worked out by theologians of both churches. Agreement on the question of papal authority was described as much trickier.

Despite conciliatory moves, including a trip by Pope John Paul II to Canterbury in 1982, Runcie said he wondered if the Pope regarded him as merely a "layman with pious intentions" because of the Vatican's refusal to recognise Anglican priestly orders.

## Australia dismisses security scare for Queen

SYDNEY (R) — Irish community leaders accused newspapers and security officials Sunday of spreading false rumours that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) might attack Queen Elizabeth during her current Australian visit.

Some local tabloids had reported that a counter-terrorist alert was issued to customs men following information that the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, might try to assassinate the Queen.

Police dismissed the reports, saying they were blown out of all proportion.

A senior police official said elaborate security arrangements for the royal visit were nothing unusual. "We have to be on the alert for any eventuality," he said.

The Queen and Prince Philip have received an enthusiastic welcome from crowds of people since they arrived in Australia on March 2 for a 12-day Australian tour.

There has been no sign of hostile activity by any groups, including anti-royalists or the IRA. The press reports said a group of Irish nationalists were detained and searched at Sydney airport during the past week as part of the security alert.

But an Irish community leader, Nancy O'Donnell, said the Irish group was composed of musicians who would perform as part of an Irish week.

## Astronaut chief accuses agency of risking lives

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — A U.S. space agency official has charged that it exposed astronauts to potentially "catastrophic" hazards since October 1984 through its pressure to launch more shuttle flights.

The allegations were made in a memo written on March 4 by John Young, chief of the astronaut office at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston and an astronaut who flew more missions than anyone else. The memo was released by the space agency Saturday.

In the memo, Young described problems "potentially as catastrophic to the space shuttle programme" as the Challenger explosion last Jan. 28.

All seven astronauts aboard the shuttle were killed in the blast, which occurred 75 seconds after launch.

The 12-page memorandum was sent to George Abbey, head of flight crew operations for the space agency, and copies went to all astronauts, shuttle chief Richard Truly and other agency officials.

"If the management system is not big enough to stop the space shuttle programme whenever necessary to make flight safety corrections, it will not survive and neither will our three space shuttles or their flight crews," Young's memo said.

It also said that missions had been launched "with less than certain full reliability and full redundancy of the systems that we operate."

As the number of launches increases, "we will start having increasing numbers of various conditions and events... where things are not working normally and management will still want to go fly," Young predicted.

"We should not allow any increase in the inherent risk of operating the space shuttle just to increase the launch rate, or reduce operating costs or fly unsafe payloads."

Young cited what he called an "awesome list" of safety problems starting with a decision not to redesign "extremely sensitive" flap valves on fittings between the shuttle and its liquid fuel tank in late 1984.

In October 1985, a regulator on one of Challenger's manoeuvring jets locked up, and NASA decided to go ahead anyway, he said.

## Police receive anonymous letter on Palme case

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Stockholm police said Sunday they had not yet been contacted by the author of an anonymous letter containing information they felt might be related to the killing of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Police Commissioner Hans Holmér said Saturday the letter contained "some interesting observations" about the night Mr. Palme was shot on a downtown Stockholm street.

Mr. Holmér, speaking in a Saturday news conference on progress of the hunt for Mr. Palme's killer, provided no details of the observations and no hints as to how important police thought they might be.

The Stockholm newspaper Aftonbladet speculated Sunday that the letter supported a theory that a second man involved in the attack was on foot near the scene of the slaying.

Mr. Holmér said the author of the letter reported he or she had been walking on a street near the shooting.

Police spokesman Leif Hallberg confirmed Sunday that there had been no contact yet from the author of the letter.

Mr. Holmér had used his Saturday news conference to appeal to the author of the letter to contact police again.

"We want help now," he said. Mr. Palme, 59, was shot in the back with a 357-Magnum revolver as he and his wife Lisbet, 55, walked home unguarded from a movie.

The Swedish prime minister, who had resisted tight personal security measures for years, had given his bodyguards the evening off and had not told security officers he was going to the movie.

Mr. Palme was honoured in two demonstrations in central Stockholm Saturday, one by some 6,000 immigrants to Sweden and the other involving 1,000 people also marking International Women's Day.

Meanwhile the Turkish newspaper Milliyet said Sunday Swedish police hunting the killer of Mr. Palme are looking for three Kurdish guerrillas.

Cemil Bayik, Ismet Dogru and Ali Haydar Kaytan, said to be members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), were named as suspects in statements to police in Stockholm by dissident PKK member Baki Karer, it said.

Milliyet and Hurriyet newspapers Saturday printed pictures of Bayik, 32, next to a composite picture of a suspect issued by Swedish police and said attention focused on him because of the resemblance.

## Colombians to decide on future of new parties

BOGOTA (R) — A dissident liberal movement and leftist guerrillas, taking part in elections for the first time, sought to break Colombia's traditional two-party system in legislative voting Sunday.

Neither was expected to score an upset victory in the polls but political analysts said their simple presence on the ballot was significant.

Their entry into electoral politics reflected an attempt to broaden a political spectrum that a diplomat jokingly said "goes from right of centre to centre right."

The two main parties, Liberal and Conservative, have dominated Colombia since independence from Spain in 1819.

Political commentators said a big turnout Sunday, especially in the cities, should favour the new Liberalism Movement of disillusioned Liberal Sen. Luis Carlos Galan.

Colombian voters have a reputation for apathy shown by an abstention rate ranging between 43 and 67 per cent over the last 25 years, and Mr. Galan, 42, hoped to change that, they said.

The second new force at work in the campaign is the leftist Patriotic Union set up by guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

FARC signed a truce with the Conservative government in 1984 and recently extended the peace pact as it sought to gain wider political respectability.

Other rebel groups, particularly M-19, are still waging a guerrilla war and are not participating in the elections.

Axual in Colombia, the polls, in which 313 seats in Congress and nearly 10,000 national, provincial and municipal offices are at stake, are expected to serve as "primaries" for the May 25 presidential elections.

The Liberals, backed by a well-oiled political machine and local "caudillos" or political bosses, were expected to draw more than three million votes and retain their traditional majority in Congress, currently 19 seats, excluding Mr. Galan's faction.

Political analysts said a poor Liberal showing could hurt the presidential hopes of party leader Virgilio Barco.

Mr. Barco, a former mayor of Bogota, has played down the effect of Mr. Galan's New Liberalism.

"The Liberal Party, even divided, will win these and the presidential elections. But the division brings no good," he told the newspaper El Tiempo in an interview Saturday.

Political sources said Conservative presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez, by accepting two widely publicised television debates with Mr. Galan last month, had hoped to aggravate the Liberal split and damage Mr. Barco's chances by boosting the image of the young senator.

Unconfirmed reports said that in Gen. Vargas's home town of Chone, 100 kilometres north east of Maná, groups of people were preparing to travel to the air force base to lend their support to the sacked armed forces chief.

Reporters outside the base said there had been no incidents since Gen. Vargas arrived there Friday afternoon, and there was no sign of other troops in the immediate area.

Gen. Vargas, dressed in combat fatigues, had been seen talking to groups of soldiers guarding the base.

The rebellion by Gen. Vargas is seen as a domestic political move since Gen. Vargas since victory in elections by reporters Saturday.

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## Soares sworn in as Portugal's president

LISBON (R) — Veteran Socialist Mario Soares was sworn in Sunday as Portugal's new president, replacing Gen. Antonio Ramalho Eanes who had ruled for a decade after the 1974 revolution that restored democracy.

Mr. Soares, who has served three times as prime minister since the revolution ended a right-wing dictatorship, swore an oath of allegiance to the constitution in a solemn ceremony in parliament attended by an array of world leaders.

"I swear on my honour to carry out the functions for which I am invested, to defend the constitution, to abide by it and ensure that others abide by it," 61-year-old Soares said.

He will be Portugal's first civilian president in 60 years.

The ceremony was conducted by the President (speaker) of the Parliament, Fernando Amaral, who was flanked by Mr. Soares and Gen. Eanes. After taking the oath, Mr. Soares shook hands with Gen. Eanes and exchanged seats with him.

Guests present included French President Francois Mitterrand, U.S. Vice-President George Bush, the Spanish and Italian Prime Ministers Felipe Gonzalez and Bettino Craxi and representatives of more than 25 other countries.

A huge street party has been organised in Lisbon to celebrate Mr. Soares' inauguration, which took place under tight security.

He won a narrow victory over right-wing rival Diogo Freitas do Amaral in last month's election.

Police said they were mounting the most extensive security operation ever seen in the Portuguese capital, using more than 7,000 policemen including anti-terrorist units.

The presence of foreign leaders has been a headache for Lisbon police chiefs worried by an upsurge in urban guerrilla activity coinciding with last month's presidential election.

The head of the country's prison service was shot dead on the eve of the vote and a car bomb exploded in the grounds of the U.S. embassy a few days later, causing no casualties.

Responsibility for the attacks was claimed by the left-wing urban guerrilla group the Popular Forces of April 25, named after the date of the 1974 revolution.

The group has said it was behind several killings, bombings and robberies since 1980 and more than 70 people accused of belonging to it are on trial in Lisbon.

request, the officials said. "The Contras are not doing anything," said one Honduran colonel who has been involved with the FDN since its formation in 1982.

"They have had the same leadership and tactics for four years. They have to restructure the FDN, because if they don't, they (the Reagan administration) are throwing money into the sea," the colonel said.

Honduran officials said there was dissatisfaction in Washington over the FDN's military strategy. They said U.S. officials believed the Contras would only improve as a fighting force if Congress allowed on-the-ground guidance from U.S. advisers.

The Honduran officials said the Contras should remove several commanders who were reluctant to expose their troops or themselves to combat.

But they added that most commanders created their own task forces by personally recruiting men, making it difficult to remove them.

Mr. Reagan, who is seeking \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in non-lethal aid, has told Congress the money is essential to prevent Communist expansion in Central America.

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## Contras halt fighting, pose little threat to Managua

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels have almost completely abandoned the battlefield and pose little threat to the leftist Sandinist government, Western diplomats and Honduran government officials said.

They told reporters that over the last few months about 10,000 fighters of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) have crossed from Nicaragua into Honduras because of lack of political and military leadership.

They said the influx had alarmed the government, already concerned about the FDN presence, and caused concern in the Reagan administration, which is pressing Congress for \$100 million in aid for the rebels.

The rebels, known as Contras, also suffered shortages and transport problems in Nicaragua. But their major failing was lack of a political philosophy which could motivate their fighters and win abroad peasant support, the officials said.

Rebel inactivity had raised questions about whether the Contras could pose a serious threat without the help of U.S. advisers and trainers.

The Contras had been urged to make their presence felt this month while Congress debated the Reagan administration's aid

request, the officials said. "The Contras are not doing anything," said one Honduran colonel who has been involved with the FDN since its formation in 1982.

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## COLUMN

### Finger falls from the sky

WEST BERLIN (R) — West Berlin police were mystified over the discovery of a human finger which fell out of the sky with a thump onto the roof of a car. Police said a 26-year-old man was alerted by a thud as he got into his parked car in the northern Tegel district of West Berlin. When he found a severed finger on the roof he took it to be a joke and left it on the roadside. But later he contacted the police and returned to the spot with them to examine it. Experts confirmed it was human and ordered a search of city hospitals for its former owner. But, so far, no explanation of the find has emerged.

### Mother becomes pregnant for 14th time to avoid jail

PESCARA, Italy (R) — A woman sentenced to 10 months in jail has become pregnant for the 14th time to avoid going to prison, the daily Corriere della Sera reported Sunday. Elisa Spinielli, 42, has had a child a year since 1975, when she was first sentenced to jail for stealing a chicken. Under Italian law women convicted of minor offences cannot be imprisoned if they are pregnant. Parliamentary Carabinieri Police were to take Spinielli to prison, but were forced to release her when she showed them a certificate saying she was pregnant. The paper said.

### Bengal tiger saved from restaurant

TAIPEI (R) — A Bengal tiger destined to be served as a gourmet dish at a Chinese banquet has been saved by a rich businessman amid outrage over the slaughter of the animals in Taiwan. The tiger, smuggled in from India or Bangladesh, is now in a zoo in the southern port of Kaohsiung after the businessman bought it from a butcher for 420,000 dollars (\$10,700), the city's mayor said. Newspapers Sunday quoted the businessman, Su Nam-Cheng, as saying that eating tigers was barbaric. An Interior Ministry official said 21 tigers had been killed for food in Taiwan in the past three or four years.

### Spielberg named best director

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Directors' Guild of America has voted Steven Spielberg, the film world's biggest moneymaker, best director for the Colour Purple. The vote followed Spielberg's failure to win an Oscar nomination as best director for the film, which won 11 other Oscar nominations. "I am floored by the award," Spielberg said. He asked that it be dedicated to black actor Adolph Caesar, 52, the film's co-star who died on Friday of an apparent heart attack. The film tells the story of a poor black woman's unhappy marriage. Other Spielberg films include Jaws, E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial and Raiders of the Lost Ark.

### Female soldiers to be court-martialled for hitchhiking at night

TEL AVIV (AP) — Women soldiers who are caught trying to hitch rides at night will be detained by the military police and court-martialled, the weekly army magazine Bamahean reported. The regulations which go into effect next Sunday are designed to safeguard the soldiers from assault and rape, the weekly said in its latest edition. Israeli women are recruited at the age of 18 for two years of mandatory service. Those who are stationed away from their hometowns sometimes hitch rides when they go on leave from their base.

### Israeli dance group travels to Poland